

VOLUME XXXVIII

OCTOBER, 1929

NUMBER 157

The
CAVALRY JOURNAL

Devoted to the Interests of the Cavalry,
to the Professional Improvement of Its
Officers and Men, and to the Advance-
ment of the Mounted Service Generally

Editor
Major O. L. HAINES, Cavalry

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Published quarterly by the United States Cavalry Association. Editor, Major O. L. Haines, Cavalry. Entered as second-class matter at the post-office at Baltimore, Md., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized May 29, 1920.

Office of Publication, Baltimore, Md.
\$2.50 per year; single copy, 75c.

Editorial Office, Washington, D. C.
Foreign Postage, 25c Additional

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General Brecard, The Inspector General of Cavalry

The CAVALRY JOURNAL

VOL. XXXVIII

OCTOBER, 1929

NO. 157

The French Cavalry

By GENERAL BRECARD, *The Inspector General of Cavalry*

Foreword

THE following article written for the readers of THE CAVALRY JOURNAL, sets forth in a brief manner the history of the French cavalry during the War of 1914-18, its organization, its methods of combat and its present day tendencies.

The rôle of the cavalry was, after the stabilization of the front, so contrary to all the theories advanced before the war by the different general staffs and military schools that as soon as peace was signed there were many who did not fail to proclaim the uselessness of the cavalry.

Also it must be recognized that cavalry is an expensive arm and that time is necessary to train the cavalryman to become a formidable combatant. From this it was quickly concluded that cavalry was an arm of another age and that it ought to be banished from the modern battlefield. In order to conform to this new dogma different armies under the pressure of a poorly informed public opinion reduced, little by little, the number of their cavalry regiments and seemed to tend toward the doctrine in which the motor was destined to replace the horse.

Today, after ten years of peace and study, the ideas seem to have again changed. Germany, whose army was reduced by the treaty of Versailles, has a cavalry whose proportion relative to the other arms is very high, since out of an army of one hundred thousand men, it has seven divisions of infantry and three divisions of cavalry, of six regiments each. In France, different maneuvers carried on since the end of the war, either on the map or with troops, have revealed the necessity of maintaining the missions of the cavalry.

The high command has not believed it advisable to keep its previous form, but has been forced to adopt an organization and furnish it an armament which permits it to fulfill its role before, during and after the battle.

One fact remains which ought not to be passed over without comment: that though aviation is a powerful source of information, and

though the motor has changed the strategical and tactical conditions of operation, cavalry alone remains capable of functioning when the aviator is blind and the motor is powerless.

Far from wishing to brush aside these new elements, the cavalry has only a single thought: to utilize their capabilities to the end that all together—horses, airplanes, motor transport—unite to constitute the mobile and powerful force which a cavalry division of the modern type ought to represent.

The study below is in complete accord with the theories set forth in the different regulations which have been published during the last five years; it is not limited to a simple statement of the doctrine formulated by the French command. It takes into consideration the high deeds of the cavalry, its long raids, its organization, its fights during the course of the war; it sets forth the modifications which were produced in its armament, and particularly the predominance given to means of fire. Finally, we will try to give to the readers of THE CAVALRY JOURNAL a concise and accurate idea of the reasons which have led the high command to organize the division of cavalry in its present form.

This cavalry division of modern type is an attempt which has not perhaps attained its final form. Doubtless new inventions which are unceasingly revolutionizing the employment of the different branches—machine guns, artillery, tanks, airplanes—will bring great changes in the formation and in the employment of large cavalry units. But one thing is certain: though the means are unceasingly modified . . . the missions remain unchanged.

The French Cavalry

This title evokes the glorious memory of all cavalrymen who, during the centuries, have accomplished so many exploits that it is difficult to say which ones should be admired the most; the knights of the Middle Ages, the cavaliers of the Monarchy, of the Revolution, of the Consulate, of the Empire, and of the Republic have followed each other in history in placing at the service of France qualities of audacity and coolness unceasingly renewed, each generation adding a link to the chain of tradition.

Centuries have succeeded centuries and the constant progress of science has not only given to people more and more powerful means to make their existence easy, but it has also placed at their disposal more and more powerful means to exterminate each other.

Long ago, for the first time, on the appearance of one of these new inventions, the end of the cavalry was predicted. However, cavalry has continued to exist even after a great war where projectiles and gas often did not leave the smallest part of the field of battle immune.

How can such an anomaly be explained, in our time when "the machine must replace the man?" It is because, first of all, though machines can replace a greater or lesser number of men, they can never replace the *man* who conceives and who regulates their movements. The body without a soul is a corpse. It is worth nothing except for the spirit which animates it. Then, the spirit of cavalry is one thing and its body is another. The spirit grows more perfect and the body changes. The cavalry of today does not resemble the cavalry of yesterday and without doubt that of tomorrow will not resemble that of today.

One thing remains *unchangeable*: the *missions* of the cavalry. As long as armies prepare themselves for combat, it is necessary that they should be *informed of the situation* and *covered*; it is necessary that on all sorts of terrain they should have *mobile reserves*.

One thing is subject to transformation: the methods of employment and the organization of the arm itself.

And thus it is that the French cavalry, after the experience of the last war, like the other branches, has undergone important modifications; we will rapidly study their *causes* and *effects*.

Experience During the War From 1914 to 1918

At mobilization the French cavalry had ninety-one regiments. During peace time, there were ten cavalry divisions, each being made up of:

3 brigades of 2 mounted regiments.

1 battalion of cyclists.

1 battalion of 75mm. horse artillery.

The necessary staffs and services.

The divisions were assigned to the various armies. In addition a cavalry corps, which did not exist in time of peace, was formed the first of August, 1914, under the orders of General Sordet. On the 14th of September a second corps of cavalry was placed under the orders of General Conneau. Conneau's Corps had been disbanded on the 26th of August and definitely reformed the 1st of September. Up to the 30th of September these large units were known by the names of their successive chiefs. After that date they received a number, Conneau's Corps becoming the I Cavalry Corps and de Mitry's Corps the II Cavalry Corps.

The remainder of the Cavalry constituted the Corps Cavalry, assigned to Army Corps and to Infantry Divisions: one regiment to an Army Corps—one or two squadrons (for the most part formed by reservists) to each Division of Infantry.

The German cavalry included at mobilization 110 regiments, of which sixty-six formed eleven cavalry divisions. Ten made up four cavalry corps. It is to be noticed that, contrary to what was existing in France, the division of the Guard Cavalry was the only one organized in time of peace.

The cavalry of the two nations, French and German, had similar regulations and appeared animated by the same offensive spirit. Mounted combat with the *arme blanche* was thought to be the normal mode of action of every cavalry unit; dismounted combat by fire had only been foreseen in special cases, and when mounted combat was not possible.

It should be always kept in mind that, as a result of this offensive spirit, the French cavalry, armed with the saber and the lance, possessed only the carbine without a bayonet, with a limited allowance of cartridges, and six machine guns to a cavalry division: all was sacrificed to *mobility*. It is fair to say, however, that in the service schools and in a large number of cavalry regiments, the instruction in fire was far from being neglected, and that very often the results obtained were very satisfactory.

An encounter between the French and German cavalry appeared inevitable at the beginning of a war: both of them had doctrines which appeared identical, and similar missions at least so far as could be understood from their regulations. It seemed to be believed on both sides that in order to have liberty of action, *it was absolutely necessary, first of all, to put the opposing cavalry out of action*. And, in pursuance of a similar operation whose importance was capital, it was necessary to have available at the proper moment a *mass of shock* capable of striking instantly and with the maximum of power. It is for this reason that, during the first months of the war, the commanders of our large cavalry units detached only the indispensable elements to cover them and obtain the necessary information, while keeping the main body of their forces well assembled.

However, this encounter of the main bodies of cavalry never happened. It can be explained:

By the absence of terrain favorable to mounted action by *large units*; the country was very much cut up, well fenced, and large open spaces were very rare.

By the nature of the missions which the high German command first gave to its cavalry: screening missions at short distances from the units of all arms, in order to conceal the preparation for the invasion of Belgium.

By an *evolution* which was being produced in the principles of employment of the German cavalry, which seemed to be inclining more and more toward dismounted combat by fire.

In any case, our light cavalry elements, full of dash, falling mounted with the *arme blanche* on their adversary, were sometimes carried along by their ardor into the enemy fire, but fulfilled their mission of reconnaissance, while our infantry never found it necessary to brush aside the elements of German cavalry which were generally prudent though very brave. And this is an achievement.

And besides, it soon appeared that facing the *present day power of*

fire, masses of maneuver were henceforth forbidden the battlefields; the uniting of these masses was one of the essential conditions of mounted attack as it was understood at that time. Similarly it appeared that "cavalry charges in mass," not benefiting from the effect of surprise and directed against an adversary having been able to organize a system of fire, ended only in bloody failures. It was necessary then to change our methods. But, though the infantry, decimated by fire during an attack launched over too great distances and insufficiently supported by its own fire and that of the artillery, was better able to utilize the terrain and its armament, it was not at all the same with the cavalry at the beginning of the war. Its formations opened up easily, it is true, in such fashion as to render its units less visible and less vulnerable. The means of fire which it possessed were utilized to the maximum, but as we have seen, these were very weak.

Bravery could not make up for the insufficiency of means, in the presence of the revelation of the power of fire, which Germans and French did not fail to recognize certainly, but whose true value both underestimated. This statement has a capital importance because it permits the clearing up of the difficulty of the task which, under such conditions, fell to the cavalry. If it was able to obtain the results that it did, it was at the price of heavy sacrifice, of a devotion which is one of the glorious traditions of the arm, and also because its well prepared, well trained and instructed *cadres* and units were able to adapt themselves rapidly to new conditions of war and to derive the maximum benefit from an insufficient armament.

This fact is indispensable if one wishes thoroughly to understand the action of the French cavalry at the beginning of the war, and the necessity for the successive changes which were made in its organization and its methods of combat.

The history of the French cavalry during the war is not the matter of principal importance here. Nevertheless, it is necessary to recall some of the principal missions which were confided to it and which it executed in order clearly to bring out the usefulness of its intervention. This usefulness has always been recognized, but in particular by the greatest of our military chiefs. This rapid glance will permit us also to understand clearly the reasons which forced the cavalry to modify its organization and its method of action.

a. *The operations from the beginning of hostilities to the Marne.*

The initial dispositions of the concentration of the French forces are well known, which comprised:

Two offensive wings { to the Northwest, the Fifth Army and Sordet's Cavalry Corps.
 { to the Southeast, the First and Second Armies.

A central mass connecting their action (Third Army).

A reserve ready to intervene on either wing (Fourth Army).

Almost all the cavalry was employed on a covering mission and on reconnaissance; the French high command was ignorant of the intentions of the German high command and was forced to discover them.

The French concentration was affected under the protection of units of all arms placed so as to cover the front extending from Hautes-Vosges to the Woevre and divided into five sectors. To each sector was given one division of cavalry. This operation, always delicate, was well carried out with perfect regularity.

However, the 1st and 2d of August, 1914, the 1st, 3d and 5th Cavalry Divisions were concentrated to the west of Mezierres, in order to constitute under General Sordet a cavalry corps. Placed under the direct orders of the Commander-in-Chief, the cavalry corps had for an initial mission to cover the concentration and engagement of the French north wing, of which the left was limited by the high ground of the Ardennes, meanwhile reconnoitering the enemy's right.

The political, diplomatic and military events of the 3d, 4th and 5th of August (violation of Belgian neutrality) caused General Joffre to turn loose the Cavalry Corps which moved on the 5th of August to the region of Sedan and received the mission of moving in the direction of Neufchateau, Bastogne, Laroche, after sending an extended reconnaissance, to determine the apparent enemy contour, to clear the region of all German cavalry, to delay the infantry columns, all the while remaining on the left flank of the French forces, and always searching for the right flank of the German maneuvers.

General Sordet then had for his mission: to explore between Luxembourg and the Meuse, on a front of about 100 kilometers, and to delay the enemy advance; a double mission which will be, in most cases, the characteristic of a reconnaissance mission.

He had at his disposal for this purpose three divisions of cavalry (a fourth division of cavalry was to be temporarily placed under his orders with certain limitations) with an infantry support which amounted in fact to only a regiment. His staff was improvised, and his means of liaison and signal communication very rudimentary.

It was necessary at first to gain information. Each cavalry division to this end sent forward a reconnaissance detachment. On the 6th of August, the main body of the cavalry corps crossed the Semoy river whose principal passages were guarded by the 45th Regiment of Infantry, then stationed itself while waiting for the information from the reconnaissance detachment. This arrived in the morning. It gave information of the presence of infantry elements, stationary in the region of Arlon (covering forces of the Third German Army), and of cavalry masses on the march toward the northwest.

The putting out of action of the enemy cavalry presented an indisputable necessity at this time. The cavalry corps moved then at once to search out this cavalry in a very difficult and close country and in a torrid heat . . . but they did not meet them.*

General Sordet decided to move the 8th of August toward Liege to intervene against the enemy forces which invested the city, but his march was retarded by enemy detachments and by the very difficult terrain. He did not reach the region of Liege until towards 7:30 P. M., at an hour too late to be able to act usefully. On the other side the enemy could not ignore the presence of the cavalry corps and the means at the disposal of the cavalry division at that time did not permit it to halt for the night in proximity to large enemy forces of all arms. It was necessary, therefore, to return to the rear, and August 9, General Sordet moved to the south of the Lesse so as to be able to exploit the information from the reconnaissance detachments which he had sent in the direction which seemed to him the most favorable. In five days the units of the cavalry corps had traveled about 250 kilometers, and certain of them had covered distances still greater.

The 10th of August information continued to arrive. A reconnaissance detachment (Lepic's squadron) in particular had the good fortune, in a brilliantly conducted operation, to take some prisoners and one of them gave information of the movement of the XXIII German Corps in the direction of Brussels, with the intention of changing direction towards Paris by way of the valleys of the Sambre and the Oise. An unfortunate combination of circumstances made it impossible to take advantage of this information.

The following days, the cavalry corps moved in the regions where, according to the information, constantly sent it by its reconnaissance detachments, it hoped to find an opportunity to intervene usefully at first towards the southeast, then toward the north and the west. General Sordet actually more and more gained the impression that important enemy forces were moving from east to west. He decided August 14th to cross the Lesse for the purpose of taking action against the enemy columns whose presence north of that river had been reported to him. But the crossings were strongly guarded and the 5th Cavalry Division could not force them; the terrain was very unfavorable for a cavalry action. Besides, the I French Corps now held the crossings of the Meuse. General Sordet, with the approval of the Commander-in-Chief, resolved to recross the Meuse to gain the left flank of the Fifth Army and to assure liaison with the Belgian army.

The reconnaissance mission of the cavalry corps was ended. Had it been useless?

*It does not seem that a German cavalry *mass* would have been found in the region indicated at this time.

It can be stated in answer to this question:

(1). That the *information* received had been plentiful and conclusive. A note from the G.H.Q. on March 26, 1919, said on this subject: "The reconnaissance and reconnoitering detachments did surprising things, brusquely pushing back everywhere the light enemy elements and bringing back the most precious information.

"The information center left at Sedan hurried back without interruption clear indications concerning the importance and arrangement of the enemy maneuver: Thirteen to fourteen German Corps were thus identified, their line of march observed, almost followed step by step. . . .

(2). That the bulk of the enemy cavalry did not come into the region in which the Cavalry Corps was operating, and perhaps for that very reason.

(3). That, in a terrain unfavorable to operations of masses of cavalry, such as they were then conceived, the Cavalry could not intervene against large enemy forces.

But one must not forget that this operation took place at the beginning of August, 1914, and that it constituted the *first experience* of the war. The Cavalry Corps had advanced, behind its reconnaissance detachments, all its forces united, ready for a cavalry combat *such as was then foreseen*. It threw itself against the covering forces which the Germans had established in front of the concentration points of their maneuver armies and it was used up in searching actively for opportunities which seemed favorable for intervention. Its means of fire were clearly shown to be insufficient, rendering it impossible for it to station its units close to the enemy, and not permitting it to force resistances which utilized natural obstacles. Its means of signal communication were rudimentary. Finally the Cavalry Corps had at its disposal only one air squadron whose machines had only a short radius of action, and who could not for that reason extend their reconnaissance to the enemy main forces in rear of their covering detachments.

During this time the German plan became clear, revealing the advance of the enemy forces across Belgium, whose neutrality had been violated, and threatening to outflank the French left.

General Joffre decided to attempt to rupture the enemy center (with the Third and Fourth Armies) and to maneuver against his right flank (with the Fifth Army, the British Army and the Belgian Army). Sordet's Cavalry Corps was put at the disposition of the Fifth Army to cover its left flank against out flanking movement by the enemy. (15-18 August).

But the Fourth Army was checked in its attack against the enemy center and had to retire on the Meuse; *a gap developed between the Fourth and Fifth Armies*. It was closed by the 4th and 9th Cavalry Divisions, which acted in the intervals and assisted the retirement of the

large units. But here again was revealed the *insufficiency of means of fire* of the cavalry which did not dare go forward but remained tied to the infantry, and kept its large units concentrated with a view to the eventual *mounted* action predicted by the regulations.

The French right, the First and Second Armies, which had from the beginning progressed with success (the 2d, 10th and 6th Cavalry Divisions participated in this operation), flung itself against superior enemy forces on the Sarre which forced it to retire. A gap formed between the two armies. It was closed by the 6th Cavalry Division which stopped the enemy advance at the edge of the Lalau wood until the arrival of the infantry reserves. This action is interesting (25 August) since, *for the first time*, a large cavalry unit used the greater part of its elements *dismounted* using its fire power (2 brigades and a cyclist group) to resist the enemy and by holding a part of the battle front, to establish liaison between two armies.

To sum up, during the period of operations from the beginning of hostilities to the retreat to the Marne, the large cavalry units assured the carrying out of: covering missions, a reconnaissance mission, covering the flanks or of intervening to close gaps between armies.

One thing should be remembered: never, in spite of the favorable occasions which were presented in this period, did the German cavalry profit by the circumstances to attack French infantry units in retreat.

b. *The Battle of the Marne.*

General Joffre, while ordering the retirement of his forces, awaited the favorable moment.

August 25, 1914, he decided to fix his right flank in the region Belfort, Epinal, Toul, and using Verdun as a pivot, to utilize the Somme as an offensive base to reply to the enemy flanking movement by an outflanking movement on the part of the Allies.

But the enemy continued his advance, his right flank seeking by a rapid advance to outflank the French left and the British army.

Sordet's Cavalry Corps all the while between the 25th and 28th of August covered the left of the British and from August 28th to September 3 that of the Sixth French Army which had been engaged on the left of the British army. In addition it formed with its least fatigued elements a provisional division charged with covering the right of the Sixth Army and with assuring liaison with the British Army. This division delayed the II German Corps and Von Kluck's army at the crossings of the Oise at Verberie and Pont Sainte-Maxence, thus permitting the elements of the Sixth Army to deploy on the south bank of the Oise.

Farther to the east, on the Aisne the 4th, 8th and 10th Cavalry Divisions assured liaison between the British Army and the Fifth French Army, and permitted the latter to cross the Aisne on the night of August 31-September 1.

Beginning with the 1st of September the 8th and 10th Cavalry Divisions constituted a new Cavalry Corps under General Conneau. This corps received the mission of covering the left flank of the Sixth Army and maintaining touch with the British army in the region of Epernay, Dormas.

On the same date the 9th Cavalry Division operated in the interval of twenty kilometers which separated the Fifth Army from Foch's Army Detachment.

Finally the favorable opportunity, patiently awaited, occurred: on the night of August 31-September 1, the commander of the Sixth Army (formed the 25th of August and previously concentrated in the region of Amiens) noted that the information received indicated that Von Kluek's Army had changed its direction of march toward the south, seeking to separate the British and French and to exploit this success by enveloping the French Army.

The days of September 2-4 showed a spirit of indecision on the part of the German high command and were used on the French side to put their forces at appropriate places. The action of the cavalry was limited to reconnaissances. Sordet's Cavalry Corps retired to Versailles to reform.

September 4, at 10:00 p. m., General Joffre decided to profit by the mistake of his adversary, and signed the order for the offensive by his armies which had been retiring for a month: the battle of the Marne was started.

In an operation of this magnitude gaps necessarily appear, intervals between the units engaged. Cavalry corps or divisions are used to close them. Such operations are often very delicate and their importance is capital.

It was for these reasons that the following dispositions were made: Sordet's Cavalry Corps was placed on the left flank of the Allies. Conneau's Cavalry Corps assured liaison between the British and French Fifth Army.

The 9th Cavalry Division closed a gap, about twenty kilometers wide, which separated the Ninth Army (Foch) from the Fourth Army, in the region of Camp du Mailly.

The 6th Cavalry Division was to move to that locality without delay.

The 7th Cavalry Division assured liaison between the Third and Fourth Armies, while covering the left of the Third Army toward the Argonne.

It was under these conditions that General de Cornulier-Luciniere, commanding the 5th Cavalry Division (Bridoux's* Cavalry Corps) received the following order at 10:00 a. m. September 8:

"However great may be the fatigue of your horses and the difficulties to overcome, gain the rear of the enemy who defends the Ourcq,

*General Bridoux replaced Sordet in command September 8.

cost what it may arrive today on the east bank of the Oureq in the region La Ferte-Milon, and make the sound of cannons heard in order to assist in causing the enemy to decide to retreat."

Horses and men were extremely fatigued; strength was very much reduced. The division passed through the woods "like a large patrol" in order not to give the alarm, with no other vehicles than those of the artillery. It slipped thus around the enemy rear and September 8 its 5th Light Brigade, advance guard of the division, became engaged in the region of La Ferte-Milon, causing the enemy great uneasiness, without question even menacing the staff of Von Kluck. In the meanwhile the artillery of the division in conformity with its orders, opened fire on the German reserves found in that region. After bivouacking for the night in the woods in the enemy zone, the 5th Cavalry Division continued its raid September 9, guided by numerous reconnaissance parties, taking under fire all enemy elements encountered: convoys, aviation fields, columns. . . . But the return route was closed. General Cornulier-Luciniere knew nothing of the general situation, for he possessed no means of communication with the friendly forces, such as wireless. September 10, he moved toward the north and west, looking for an open road across the Forest of Compiegne, and continued to spread disorder by his passage. He finished by rejoining the French lines after covering about 180 kilometers in three days in enemy territory. What results could have been accomplished under such conditions by this Cavalry Division if it had disposed of sufficient means of fire, if it had possessed means of signal communications which did not exist then, and if it had been able to act in liaison with aviation? One may well wonder what were Von Kluck's impressions, in his critical situation, on learning that a division of French Cavalry was in his rear and on finding himself and his staff in the presence of enemy horsemen who did not recognize him.

September 9 the order for the withdrawal of all the German Armies was given. The hour of exploitation seemed near. The Cavalry Corps were moved to the front as rapidly as their worn out horses allowed. Conneau's Cavalry Corps pressed its action. Bridoux's Corps meandered the right of Von Kluck's Army. A gap was searched for.

September 13, having crossed the Aisne on the remaining bridges, the 10th Cavalry Division (Conneau's Corps) learned from the reconnaissance detachments it had sent ahead, that the road was open to the northeast. It hastened in that direction, certain of being supported. It reached Sissonne, discovering a gap twenty kilometers wide giving grounds for the greatest hopes. But the 10th Division was not supported; our troops were exhausted after the superhuman efforts they had made. There were no more reserves available; a wonderful opportunity was lost.

The enemy fatigue was equally great and their munitions began to

give out. This explains why the forces stopped face to face, held to the ground, then dug in: the so called stabilized warfare began.

c. *The Race to the Sea.*

One part only of the terrain remained free for maneuver, extending to the sea. Each of the two adversaries made every effort to use it to outflank the other and employed there half of its infantry divisions and almost all of its cavalry.

The concentration of the French forces destined for this operation took place the end of September in the region of Arras, behind a great cavalry screen comprising two Cavalry Corps: Conneau's Cavalry Corps, (1st, 3d and 10th Divisions) and de Mitry's Corps (4th, 5th and 6th Divisions), and the 8th and 7th Cavalry Divisions. But the enemy sought on his side to forestall us, and the Cavalry units were hastily sent to the threatened points to gain time necessary for the arrival of the forces of all arms which they successfully accomplished.

The enemy flanking movement extended progressively toward the north. Calais, the British base, was menaced. On the Allied side it was necessary to place the British Army, now too distant, close to the coast and its bases, on terrain where French forces were fighting at the time. The operation was delicate, especially considering the enemy efforts. It was also necessary to save the Belgian Army, half surrounded in Antwerp and having its base at Ostend.

As soon as they were available, that is October 7, de Mitry's and Conneau's Cavalry Corps were sent, the first in the region of Lille and the second in the region of La Bassé to cover the English debarkation, which could thus be made without interference, in spite of the enemy attacks. For five days the II Cavalry Corps had to deploy on a front of thirty kilometers (October 6 to 11) in a close country offering only short fields of fire, while keeping reserves as strong as possible to be used at the necessary points and to be able to face each enveloping movement. The cavalry had, besides, a mission of reconnaissance, since it had to *reconnoiter* and *attack* the enemy forces located in that region.

From October 8 to 12 the two cavalry corps permitted the debarkation and entry into the line of the British Army (I and II Corps), then assured liaison between the British and the Belgian Armies.

From November 2 to 11, while the I Cavalry Corps stopped the enemy in the region of Messines, the II Cavalry Corps after having covered the deployment of the Belgian Army Detachment, held all the German attacks.

The "Race to the Sea" was ended; the front was stabilized all along the front of the armies of the north and northeast. The cavalry had played there an important role, in spite of the feebleness of its weapons and its fatigue: a division of cavalry at that period scarcely

contained a thousand horsemen, two hundred cyclists, three sections of machine guns and three 75mm. batteries.

But our large cavalry units had learned a great deal and they progressively adapted themselves to the new form which war had taken on: combat dismounted by fire action became the habitual method of combat of the cavalry. In certain circumstances fire action did not represent a short operation but was prolonged; the horses were sent to the rear and the ground organized. In each regiment the men without horses were formed into a dismounted squadron. The means of fire were revealed as insufficient; lacking bayonets, certain units used the lance.

There was indeed produced a true revolution in the tactics of the cavalry, and one can not better express it than to cite extracts from a note which General de Mitry issued in April, 1915:

"War has imposed on cavalry new methods of combat. In the offensive as in the defensive fire now plays the principal role; but while, in the ~~defensive~~ fire often suffices by itself to break the spirit of the enemy, it ~~rests~~ on the offensive subordinate to movement, since movement is the primordial requisite of all fruitful cavalry action. . . .

"It is not sufficient to foresee combat dismounted of small units, platoons or squadrons, but the united action of the regiment and the brigade, either alone or in the greater framework of the action of the division must be anticipated.

"The methods and the procedure of employment ought to be patterned after that of the infantry, but always conserving to the fire action of cavalry its characteristic of violence and surprise. . . .

"Whenever possible start the action by surprise and on a wide front, placing from the beginning all that is necessary in the line in such a way as to take advantage of convergence of fire and efforts.

"In conjunction with a fire action thus conducted there will be a mounted action in the enemy's rear of some elements against troops which are tired and broken up by the struggle or poorly supported. Such action has still a very powerful effect."

The new doctrine of the cavalry was established along lines which have not changed.

During the operations of the Race to the Sea, the outflanking attempts ended only in the prolongation of the front, and this is explained from the fact that the opposing forces were all about equal, that it was necessary to cover the successive debarkations of forces of all arms which had been brought to the fight, and then to march again toward the uncovered wing.

In spite of these unfavorable conditions, it can be said that thanks to our units of cavalry, over a distance of 200 kilometers as a bird flies, our forces were conducted in safety from one battle to the next, from the Marne to the Yser.

d. Stabilized Warfare.

Beginning in 1915 until March 1918 the war of stabilization did not give the cavalry any chance to intervene.

But, this long period permitted the cavalry to profit from the lessons of the beginning of the war, to increase considerably its means of fire, and to put into final shape the method of employment corresponding to the new conditions which the first operations had disclosed.

Cavalry units participated in the combat, dismounted, by occupying certain parts of the front either alone or mixed with units of infantry.

Its cadre furnished a precious reinforcement to those of the other arms. Dismounted units were constituted by drawing upon the mounted units and in December, 1917, and January, 1918, two divisions of dismounted Cuirassiers were formed and were soon reported as units of the first order.

After several successive modifications, the cavalry division was made up as follows:

3 mounted brigades of 2 regiments each; each regiment having at its disposition two sections of machine guns, and some automatic rifles. The troopers were armed with a carbine and bayonet and furnished a liberal allowance of cartridges.

1 battalion of cyclists.

1 battalion of 77mm. of 3 batteries.

2 battalions of armored vehicles (37mm. and machine gun).

The Cavalry Division became a unit which kept its mobility but possessed powerful means of fire.

In 1917 a cavalry regiment formed an organic part of each Army Corps, and a half regiment, likewise, was an organic part of each independent Infantry Division. This was the condition when, on the 21st of March, 1918, the enemy broke the British front by a powerful attack.

On the 22d of March, at noon, large French units were thrown into the region of Noyon (among which was a dismounted division of Cuirassiers). The First Cavalry Division was brought into the region of Roye, the 5th and 4th Cavalry Divisions to the west of Roye and toward Moreuil. These three divisions were not formed into a corps but acted independently.

The cavalry was immediately engaged in action; thanks to its special qualifications, its elements, kept informed by reconnaissance detachments, intervened rapidly at the points where it was necessary to employ them, executing flank marches which they alone could accomplish under such conditions. Resisting at a point that it was important to hold, slowing up the march of the enemy, the cavalry divisions allowed reinforcements to enter in line. The armored cars, a new creation, rendered the greatest services.

It was the first experience of these divisions in the utilization of the

powerful means of fire which had been given them; their action was a little disjointed and their dismounted tactics still lacked suppleness.

The German attack was stopped by the arrival of allied reserves. But it was renewed the 4th and 5th of April, stopped and was resumed the 9th of April in Flanders.

The II Cavalry Corps at this moment was behind the lines. During the night of the 11th-12th of April, 1918, it received orders to march rapidly to the region of Saint-Omer and to cross the Somme. Two hundred kilometers were covered in perfect order in sixty hours and the Cavalry Corps (2d, 3d and 6th Cavalry Divisions) was placed at the disposal of General Plumer, as well as the French forces which were in the region of Saint-Omer. This time, independent divisions were no longer thrown into the battle, but an organized Cavalry Corps, which marched with all its means to the fight. Liaison officers were sent forward to the units which were engaged in action; the situation was serious. The First and Second British Armies were retreating and a breach threatened to open on account of their divergent line of retreat. The English front was seriously shaken.

The Cavalry Corps deployed rapidly behind the British front, and established contact with the enemy by means of weak elements and then stopped his advance by the barrier of its fire. Reinforcements arrived, and after several days of severe combat in the region of Mont Kemmel in which the Cavalry Divisions participated on foot, the situation was reestablished.

The characteristic thing in this operation was the rapidity with which the Cavalry Corps was able to march to the battle, all its means united, without hindering the traffic on the railroads, and the rapidity with which it could lay down a continuous curtain of fire on a wide front.

In May, 1918, the Germans suddenly started a new and powerful offensive between the Oise and Reims; on the 27th of May, after a short but very powerful artillery preparation, the enemy rapidly overran our first position and succeeded in reaching the Aisne whose bridges were intact. A large gap was open.

From the 27th of May reserves were directed toward the Aisne, and among them were the I and II Cavalry Corps.

The I Cavalry Corps (1st, 4th and 5th Cavalry Divisions) was at rest on the Marne in cantonments which were widely scattered and had available only four brigades out of nine, belonging to the 4th and 5th Cavalry Divisions. It was then in rather bad condition, stripped of the greater part of its means.

A reconnaissance detachment sent forward quickly furnished the Commanding General of the Cavalry Corps information concerning the

situation. An advanced center of information which was established made it possible to collect and classify the information.

The weak units of the Cavalry Corps went into action in the gaps which were produced between the decimated infantry units, reestablished cohesion and liaison. On the 28th of May, at evening, on about twenty kilometers of front, there was only a curtain made by four cavalry brigades around which some few elements of infantry had rallied.

On the 29th, the 1st Cavalry Division rejoined the Cavalry Corps, but the enemy renewed his attack and could only be delayed until his arrival at the Marne, the line on which the front was reconstituted.

The whole of the II Cavalry Corps (2d, 3d and 6th Cavalry Divisions) was in the region southwest of Amiens, with all its units united. Its losses in men following the operations of March and April had not yet been replaced and, as a result, it had more than a thousand led horses.

At three o'clock in the morning on the 28th of May it received an order to march to the region of Beauvais, and then by subsequent orders to reach the Oureq. Thus it marched 215 kilometers in three days and found itself confronted with a very confused situation which it cleared up by sending forward a reconnaissance detachment. A breach was open. On the 30th of May the divisions concealed it. The Cavalry Corps had at its disposal some elements of the 26th Infantry Division which was detraining. The enemy was held on the 31st of May and 1st of June and even attacked with success at certain points. A gap was opening toward the right where the VII Army Corps was located. On the 2d of June the Cavalry Corps attacked and the Germans were momentarily stopped. On the 2d of June it was relieved and passed into reserve.

An Army Commander was able to write the beginning of June:

"The success of the enemy on the Ourcq lasted only a day, and it is certainly due to the activity of the Cavalry Corps that the enemy offensive was stopped. The resistance made by the Cavalry Corps gave us the time to oppose the enemy with the necessary forces, to organize them and to reach the present situation, which permits us to vouch for the future."

In these periods of crisis the cavalry was revealed to be a mobile reserve of fire of great value at the disposal of the high command. Its large units were able to march rapidly to the threatened points without bothering the traffic on the railroads or the highways, to clear up a confused situation rapidly, to intervene in the battle with all its force united, and to offer the first organized resistances to the local success of the enemy, giving thus to the reserves of all arms the time and the information necessary to enable them to reestablish a compromised situation.

Just the same, the interventions of the cavalry in dismounted com-

bat had not in every case shown enough suppleness. They had really tried to adopt as much as possible the methods of infantry combat and had even sought to organize under such circumstances companies and battalions. From this change of formation made at a time when the cavalry was forced to act on foot, some delays arose and it caused the greatest inconvenience by not always leaving to dismounted units the same leaders who had commanded them under all other circumstances.

e. *The last period of the war: the exploitation of the success.*

But soon the Allies resumed the initiative, and recognizing indications of enemy weakness, Marshal Foch who now had American forces at his disposal, decided at the end of August, 1918, to start a decisive battle which should commence the 26th of September.

Three operations were contemplated:

1. Between the Meuse and the Sûre, entrusted to the First American Army and the Fourth French Army.

2. Between Arras and Reims, to be conducted by British and French forces.

3. In Flanders, under the high command of the King of Belgium, who should have at his disposal Belgian, British and French forces.

Events happened rapidly: In the Orient the Bulgarian front had been brushed aside by the attack of General Franchet d'Esperey, who personally had turned loose his cavalry (three French regiments under the orders of General Jouinot-Gambetta) and had launched it on the enemy's rear as soon as the front had been broken. Our cavalry advanced over a mountainous country with almost no roads, and obtained in this manner a surprise effect by appearing before Uskub, of which it took possession, and closed the line of retreat of the Second German Army. Bulgaria was forced to conclude an armistice on September 29, 1918.

The French and Serbian Cavalry threw themselves forward in pursuit of the Austrian forces which were falling back toward the north, and after thirty-two days of pursuit reached the Danube, during which time our units covered about 700 kilometers.

The Turkish Army was also powerless to do anything. On the 3d of November, Austria-Hungary capitulated.

The circle was closing around the central empires whose forces were yielding everywhere, and whose morale was declining.

In order to finish the enemy, Marshal Foch organized, under the direction of General Castelnau, an attack in Lorraine, having as its objective the Sarre and directed at its railroad lines.

The final success was near; also the main bodies of cavalry were stationed at points from which they could begin at once its exploitation.

This is why, from the end of September the II Cavalry Corps (2d, 4th and 6th Cavalry Divisions) moved to the Allied left wing, where it was placed under the orders of King Albert I.

The I Cavalry Corps (1st, 3d and 5th Cavalry Divisions) massed itself behind the American Army between Chalons and the Argonne.

The II Cavalry Corps was forced to content itself, at the beginning, by following the infantry, which it passed on the 10th of October. But the German resistance compelled numerous halts which necessitated the momentary intervention of the infantry. This resistance grew weaker at the beginning of November. The advance of the II Cavalry Corps was then more rapid, and by its own means. The route to Brussels was about to open.

At the end of October, the I Cavalry Corps was placed at the disposal of General Castelnau.

The hour of the cavalry, so long awaited, was about to sound. But the armistice of the 11th of November stopped its dash. One may conjecture what results would have been obtained by these masses of disciplined cavalry, well instructed, having a high morale, acting on the flanks against an enemy, demoralized, beaten, and having his lines of retreat cut.

This rapid glance over the actions of the French Cavalry during the course of the last war, shows us that its units were far from being inactive. Divisional and Corps Cavalry carried out well all the missions foreseen by our regulations.

During the first period of the war (war of movement), the large cavalry units were constantly employed; also, the fatigue of men and especially horses was great at the moment when their most strenuous efforts should have been demanded. Moreover, the cavalry, during all the active operations at the beginning of the war, had only a little fire power in front of an enemy provided with means far superior to theirs.

In spite of that, the cavalry rendered a great service. One should note that the enemy cavalry, though powerful and brave, did not know how or did not dare, at the most opportune time, to profit by the opportunities which were offered it.

Without our large units of cavalry, it can be asked how the gaps which opened between our armies and our army corps would have been filled, how the debarkations of units of all arms would have been covered, and large units transported from one point to another of the vast field of battle.

In the hour of crisis a call was always made to the cavalry and never in vain.

The cavalry showed themselves to be a mobile reserve of fire of great value during the operations of 1918 in particular.

To sum up, during the course of the war, our cavalry furnished information, covered, fought in liaison with the other arms; the exploitation of success was stopped, except in the Orient, at the moment when it was about to commence under the most favorable auspices.

Present Day Organization of the French Cavalry

The experience of the war was the basis of the new organization of the French Cavalry. It had shown that the cavalry should remain an arm capable of moving rapidly with all its means, of maneuvering over all kinds of ground, at the same time making use of its configuration and nature with maximum adaptability; means of fire ought to be powerful without destroying mobility. When called upon to act independently on large fronts, it was indispensable that the cavalry should be provided with the means to gather the necessary information for its own maneuver and for the high command, and to transmit this information rapidly. It was therefore necessary that it should have:

Means to search for information.

Means of transportation.

Means of fire.

Means of liaison and signal communication, corresponding to the special conditions of its employment.

On the other hand, the considerable reduction in strength and the length of active military service rendered the problem still more difficult. It was necessary to instruct, in a relatively short time, its non-commissioned officers and men who need to know a great deal, much more than before the war when a relatively long time was available.

At first thought it does not seem very easy to conserve mobility and suppleness in a unit when one wishes to increase its means of fire, and as an inevitable consequence, its supply of ammunition. As is usual in the study of every new organization, the questions were listed in order.

The most important was that concerning transportation. There were two means available: the horse and mechanical vehicles.

The horse is *today* the means of transportation and maneuver which suits the cavalry the best. He travels almost everywhere, possesses a variable rate of speed, and is capable of covering with sufficient rapidity distances which are relatively considerable. Horse raising is an industry well developed in France. On the other hand, it is necessary to train him, he is rather vulnerable, particularly when he is halted and in a group, but his mobility makes of him, after all, a rather difficult object to hit when he is in movement.

Mechanical vehicles include the bicycle, automobile, motorcycles, light carriages, small and heavy trucks. Under certain conditions they can be used off the roads, at least when the ground is not especially cut up. According to their size and power, they can transport several men and more or less heavy material at commercial speeds which are sufficiently high and on long trips.

A more or less thick armor can diminish their vulnerability. But uniting them in a group for marches creates an object which is very

easy for aerial observation to pick up, much more so than the mounted units, who can almost instantly disperse and hide themselves.

Each of these two methods of transportation represents, then, some advantages and some disadvantages. This is why it was thought that without eliminating either of them, the two methods could be combined usefully.

First of all, it seemed self-evident that there was a big advantage in having all transportation designed to insure to all units the means of living and of fighting made by automobile. One could then supply, without fatigue, rapidly and over rather great distances, units as mobile as are those of the cavalry.

On the other hand, experience has shown that a Cavalry Division carrying out, for example, a mission of exploration, would use up nearly two mounted brigades (four regiments) in the search for information (terrestrial reconnaissance detachment), in assuring its own security (advance guards and flank guards) and to establish contact and generally hold its third brigade and cyclists for maneuver. Besides the action of these reserve elements is never instantaneous under the conditions of modern war, but necessitates a certain delay. A cavalry operation, while always rapid, demands, however, a series of successive operations imposed by the present day powerfulness of fire and the necessity for methodical reconnaissance of the enemy.

It would then be advisable to transport on mechanical vehicles these reserve elements which could be used only after a certain delay. One would have, then, at his disposition, organized units, not fatigued, who could be employed at the proper point, either to attack or to hold a position. Every change ought to be progressive and take into consideration the means which are available immediately, material means resulting from national industry . . . and the possibilities of the budget. This is why it was decided to keep the Cavalry Division with two mounted brigades and to give it a regiment transported on automobiles to which was given the name of a regiment of *Dragons portes*: a regiment formed of non-commissioned officers and men belonging to the cavalry, including three battalions, under the command of a colonel. In time of peace, on account of reasons of strength and finance, there is only a single battalion which is utilizing temporarily the bicycles of the old group of cyclists which has been done away with. This battalion in the future will be equipped with cross country vehicles. The two other battalions will be organized from reservists, belonging to the cavalry with a back bone of elements of the active army. For the time being they will be transported in trucks.

The means of fire of the cavalry have been highly developed. Each mounted regiment is provided with automatic rifles distributed amongst the squadrons. The regiment has four squadrons, each of four platoons

(three in time of peace). It includes, in addition, a squadron of machine guns transported on little horse-drawn vehicles.

The regiment of *Dragons portes* is about equal to a regiment of infantry.

So far as artillery fire is concerned, it appeared necessary to make it as powerful as possible, but at the same time to avoid overloading the cavalry division; this is why the division was given two battalions of horse artillery organically. The battalions are composed of three batteries each and are well suited to follow the mounted brigades. One battalion of heavy artillery also forms an organic part of the division.

In addition, a commanding officer for the artillery of the cavalry division has been assigned it and he has been given the means of command which permit him, when it shall be necessary, to command the reenforcing artillery.

It must not be forgotten that cavalry divisions, called upon to operate independently in certain cases, have need of being informed as to the situation.

The search for information will be entrusted to aviation and to mounted detachments and automobiles. It is certain that by the combination of aviation and mounted units, reenforced by automobiles, missions of discovery or reconnaissance will be well executed. The aerial reconnaissance detachments, as well as the method of functioning of the terrestrial reconnaissance detachments, will be covered farther on. So far as the automobile means are concerned, they are supplied by the armored car organizations (squadrions, each of four platoons), cross-country cars, armored, swift and armed with machine guns and a semi-automatic cannon of small calibre.

In addition to their employment on reconnaissance, the armored cars will take a part, in conjunction with other units, in the execution of all the missions which fall to a large cavalry unit.

Finally, it is necessary that a unit ordered to act on a large front shall have means of liaison and of signal communication which will insure transmission of information and orders. For this purpose the cavalry division has many means of its own and in its different organizations: sending and receiving wireless sets, telephones, optical instruments, pyrotechnical means, automobiles and, last of all, its horses.

It was thus the organization of the French Cavalry Division was decided upon, which includes:

Divisional staff and the services of supply.

Two mounted brigades.

A regiment of *Dragons portes* of three battalions; one battalion is on bicycles and soon will have cross-country vehicles, the other two in trucks.

Two or three squadrons of armored cars.

Two battalions of horse artillery, 75mm.
One battalion of heavy automobile artillery (105mm.).
Company of engineers in automobiles.
Usually one aviation squadron (observation).
One set of bridge building material.

To sum up, it has been attempted to join mobility to as great a fire power as possible, and this latter is far from being negligible, since the division has about five hundred automatic arms and an artillery of appreciable force capable of absorbing reinforcements.

The corps and divisional cavalry have been organized along similar lines.

The small number of cavalry divisions existing today will often result in a number of army corps not having in front of them a large unit of cavalry. It will, nevertheless, be necessary for them to be informed of the situation; their march and their action, as well as that of the divisions, will need to have scouting carried out and to gain information. It was for this reason that each army corps was given as a part of its organization a corps reconnaissance group and to each division of infantry a divisional group of reconnaissance.

The same problem at once presented itself in the formation of these groups of reconnaissance as for the cavalry divisions: it was necessary to preserve for these units a satisfactory mobility over all kinds of ground, at the same time giving them an appreciable fire power. As a matter of fact, reconnaissance groups ought to be able to search the terrain very carefully in the zone of action of the large units to which they belong, but their investigations should not be stopped by slight or isolated enemy resistance, or by a thin curtain of fire rapidly stretched. It was then necessary that they should possess sufficient rapid and mobile means of transport over all kinds of terrain, and a reserve of fire capable of supporting them, or under which they could withdraw.

It was decided to effect this change progressively in the following manner:

The search for information and the maneuvers over any terrain will be confided to the mounted squadrons supplied with automatic arms;

The reserve of fire power will be constituted for the present of a squadron of cyclists well supplied with automatic arms;

Finally, a platoon of machine guns transported in automobiles, including four semi-armored cars armed with machine guns, and five motorcycles with side cars, permit reconnaissance at short distance, insure fire support at one or several desired points rapidly, and insure the necessary liaison;

A radio station insures the rapid communication with infantry units and with aviation.

Reconnaissance groups of army corps and infantry divisions have

the same composition with a single difference: the reconnaissance group of the army corps has two mounted squadrons and is commanded by a colonel who has authority over all of the reconnaissance groups of the divisions composing the corps.

The reconnaissance group of the infantry division, commanded by a field officer, has only one mounted squadron instead of two.

This organization marks a first attempt in the change of the units of corps cavalry; it has not been decided definitely. The reconnaissance groups will be made up of elements of the reserves intermingled with elements of the active army. Some of them have been made up under these conditions and in a temporary manner for maneuvers or field exercises, and have caused some interesting observations.

It can be said that the French cavalry is in process of transformation and that without renouncing the horse, which at the present time offers resources that one would not know how to procure by other means, it is seeking to augment its possibilities of action by an accurate amalgamation of horses and mechanical vehicles.

This transformation, coming at a time which is marked by an appreciable reduction in strength and in the duration of active service, is only possible with trained non-commissioned officers who are well imbued with the greatness and importance of their task.

Instruction in equitation and the love of a horse are still the basis for the training of the young officer, and is the best means of developing dash and deliberate audacity. But it is completed by a well-grounded instruction in the more and more varied means that cavalry will henceforth utilize; instruction in the automobile, the fire of weapons, signal communications, mapping, employment of mounted units, automobile and transported units; action either alone or in conjunction with other arms.

This is why American army officers who have done us the honor to come and take the course at Saumur can bear witness to the activities seen there, for the purpose of insuring a varied instruction which demands hard work on the part of the instructor and pupil, but very productive in results.

Present Day Conceptions of the Role of Cavalry and the Accomplishment of Its Missions

If the cavalry has been forced by the experience of the war to progressively modify its organization and methods of combat, it has none the less conserved its traditional role which is defined by this phrase taken from the "provisional instructions concerning the employment of large units of October 6, 1921":

"Cavalry furnishes information, covers, fights in liaison with the other branches."

But henceforth it can be said that *the cavalry maneuvers mounted on horses and in automobiles and fights by fire.*

These two formulas define very clearly the role and the method of employment of cavalry.

a. *The cavalry furnishes information.*

One might well be in doubt as to the possibility of large units of cavalry accomplishing missions of *exploration*, after a war which for four years saw the opposing forces fighting on a continuous front, and during the course of which a new branch, aviation, was born and reached a high state of development.

It is, however, immediately following such a war that there could be written in the "Provisional Instruction Concerning the Tactical Employment of Large Units", the expressed thought of one of our greatest leaders.

"Enormous masses placed in movement by obligatory service and coalition during the last war were able to establish continuous fronts of such an extent that the wings reached out to and rested upon obstacles which were uncrossable; the power of fire only could be increased and with it the value of defensive organizations. It is to be presumed that similar situations can be produced in the future."

"But the present day military conditions in Europe make it probable that, at the beginning of a campaign, the forces facing each other will consist simply of armies at reduced strength, whose mission it is to protect the mobilization en masse of their country or to slow up that of the enemy. These armies will be forced to maneuver and utilize the open spaces. A similar situation can also be presented when the exhaustion of the forces shall have allowed some breakdowns in the continuous front and created some intervals."

It is difficult to discuss an opinion so firmly established, the value of which is still increasing following the considerable reductions which have been and will still be made in peacetime armies and in the duration of active service.

So far as concerns aviation, this arm does not claim to be a rival of the cavalry, but, on the other hand, gives to the latter the possibility of accomplishing its missions more easily. Aviation and cavalry complete each other, and by their combination ought to obtain the most fruitful results.

In truth, aviation has at its disposal a command of space without limit; it can go fast and far. But it cannot *identify* the enemy units whose presence it discovers in a certain region, and it cannot function *under all conditions*. (Bad weather, forests, etc.)

Taking into consideration the precautions which forces of all arms will henceforth exercise to conceal their presence from aerial investigation, the fact that aviation has "seen nothing" in a definite region does not permit the positive affirmation that there are no forces there.

Cavalry goes slower and not so far; it is stopped by resistances which it encounters if these latter have superior means. But it can carefully search all covered ground, identify the enemy and, if need be, temporarily stop or slow up his advance. When a cavalry corps or division has reconnoitered a definite section of ground, one can be certain that there either is or is not an enemy force therein. One is *certain*.

It is necessary then to take advantage of the different capabilities of these two arms in the accomplishment of the same task: aviation will search for the *large bodies* of the enemy, and the cavalry will be directed toward them so as to identify them. If a large body of cavalry is stopped by enemy screening forces, aviation will fly over the zone which is denied to cavalry reconnaissance detachments and will attempt to discover the main body behind their security elements.

The two arms then compete each other, and by uniting their efforts will gather information which, when joined together, will clear up the situation.

In certain cases where aviation will not be able to observe on account of special conditions, cavalry alone will carry out the missions of exploration.

The advance of science now permits certain types of airplanes to transport a great weight of projectiles which they can let fall, with no limit as to range, on enemy objectives which they can reconnoiter and see. It certainly seems that *there* is an ideal which the artillery has never claimed; before its realization by aviation, had anyone thought of suppressing terrestrial artillery? The thing seems as logical as to think of replacing cavalry by aviation on its mission of exploration. The artillery contents itself with profiting from the facilities of observation which aviation possesses in order to utilize them for its own good, and aviation aids and prolongs the action of the artillery.

These two arms then complete each other in the accomplishment of certain missions but do not replace each other. It is the same with the aviation and the cavalry.

How can the cavalry corps or a division of cavalry accomplish a mission of exploration?

It is a question, in such a case, of advancing on an assigned axis or by a definite zone to determine the presence or the absence of enemy forces and to identify them.

The distance of this operation will not be great and generally will not be beyond the main body of cavalry by more than two or three days march of large infantry units, so as to give the reconnoitering elements time to seek for the information which is demanded of them, to collect and transmit it. This also permits forces of all arms to exploit this information and to relieve or support the cavalry. Beyond this radius of action the situation as a whole will be scouted by the aerial organizations of the army.

A large body of cavalry, the division for example, will be preceded by a *reconnaissance detachment*. That is to say, by *small aerial and terrestrial units charged with furnishing it information concerning the activities of the enemy, in certain principal directions, on definite and successive objectives*. The distance that this reconnaissance detachment will go will be limited by the obligation of furnishing the information to the Commanding General of the Division in time for him to take advantage of it. The development of signal communication, and particularly the wireless, permits these reconnaissance detachments hereafter to go to a lesser distance than formerly when the horse, or the carrier pigeon, were the only means of transmitting messages. It may be said that in most cases the terrestrial reconnaissance detachment will operate within a radius of action that will correspond roughly to a day's march, that is to say, thirty or forty kilometers. Taking into consideration the rapidity with which information can be transmitted, in most cases this distance will be sufficient to allow the Division Commander to maintain his *freedom of action*, to support his reconnaissance detachments and to carry out his mission under the most favorable conditions.

The aerial reconnaissance will be confided to the divisional observation squadron which will extend and complete the action of the terrestrial reconnaissance detachment, without going to too great distances.

The terrestrial reconnaissance will henceforth be entrusted to detachments made up of mounted and motorized units. Their strength will not be greater, except under special conditions, than a "squadron" with machine guns.

In 1914 one did not hesitate to send reconnaissance patrols to *great distances* commanded by an officer and composed of carefully selected troopers. But if, thanks to their special composition, these elements succeeded in attaining the objectives which had been assigned them, they could only with difficulty get information back in time to be of use.

Within certain limits and for this reason this procedure was given up, especially since the increase in automatic arms rendered the accomplishment of such missions by a small number of men particularly difficult and often impossible.

The reconnaissance detachment possesses rapid signal communication (radio and automobile). While not having a great offensive value, it does, however, possess, thanks to its allowance of automatic arms, a certain fire power which permits it to brush aside a weak enemy resistance which it cannot avoid. It is rapid enough and possesses a great mobility over all kinds of ground. It advances from objective to objective preceded at a short distance by reconnaissance parties directed on these successive objectives. These latter send back the information they gather to the reconnaissance detachment, which assembles it and sends it to the division commander. If the reconnaissance patrols are stopped, the detachment

looks for a gap or an interval, without departing too much from the axis which it was to reconnoiter. If it does not find one it attempts to force a passage at the point which seems to lend itself best to such an operation. If the action is successful it detaches new reconnaissance parties; if it fails, it has already obtained information concerning the enemy strength at the point where it has struck with all its concentrated power. It transmits this information and keeps the contact while continuing to observe the enemy. If it appears possible, it renews its attempt at another point. In any case, it notifies the divisional observation squadron, which seeks to observe beyond the line where the detachment was stopped.

There is one inevitable question on the subject of the reconnaissance detachment: ought they in the execution of their mission to rely on a ruse or on force?

The French doctrine at the present day tends more willingly toward the first process, and attempts to keep its detachments light and mobile while at the same time furnishing them a certain fire power. The second process offers the inconvenience of tending toward a "piecemeal action". As a matter of fact, the strength of a detachment is only *relative*; a strong detachment is a heavy detachment which reveals its presence more easily. As soon as a detachment is reported in a certain region, its mission becomes very difficult. It is sought out, harrassed and has no other alternative than to fall back or to be destroyed. Moreover, the detachments are made up, naturally, by a levy on the strength of the large cavalry unit that detaches them and the stronger they are, the more they weaken the parent force, which is a grave consideration.

When the reconnaissance detachments are stopped the cavalry division which sent them out will support them with all or part of its means. The division marches in the trace of its reconnaissance detachments from objective to objective, covered by advance and flank guards. It uses at first the roads and highways by making up articulated march groups, then from the moment when the effects of the enemy's artillery is to be feared progresses across country.

The new organization of the cavalry division, which hereafter will include horses and motorized units, elements of different speeds and nature, necessarily has a reaction on the composition of the march column. A division of modern cavalry will advance generally in two echelons. The first will include the mounted brigades, the horse artillery, some armored cars and some cyclists or cross-country vehicles. It will constitute the first element of maneuver, charged with clearing up the situation. The second echelon will be formed by portéé units. These will move by varying bounds, their length being fixed by the commanding general and conducted *at their most favorable speed of march* within the safety zone furnished by the first echelon. A close connection will be maintained between the first and second echelon, the latter throwing

forward particularly the necessary reconnaissance parties who investigate the road net so that the march can be made in security by the best and most favorable itinerary.

While the first echelon is more especially the element designed to clear up a situation and to establish first contact with the enemy, the second element represents an organized unit all of whose resources are united and whose offensive or defensive capacity is far from being negligible. It can be used either to make an attack on a narrow front or to insure the possession of important parts of the terrain. To sum up, it is an intact reserve at the disposal of the commanding general. If it is *well prepared*, its intervention in the battle will not take long. Except under very special conditions the action of a large body of cavalry henceforth due to the power of fire will not be instantaneous, but progressive although rapid.

The division commander receives successive information from his aerial and terrestrial reconnaissance detachments; thanks to them, he builds up a more or less definite idea of the difficulties that he will encounter.

The space at his disposal permits him, within the limits of his mission, to modify his itinerary and formation, with the idea of going around the resistances which are reported or of reconnoitering them more definitely for the purpose of breaking them at the most favorable point.

Combat, without being an end, will really be a necessity when one wishes to know the nature and the strength of the enemy forces encountered. The information furnished by the aerial and terrestrial reconnaissance detachments have a certain value; particularly they shape the maneuver of the cavalry division. But it is necessary to verify it.

Covered by advance and flank guards which have received a definite mission, the mounted brigades, generally abreast, march forward by bounds of varying length toward the line reached by the reconnaissance detachment.

The units of the second echelon increase their reconnaissance of the ground and of itineraries so as to prepare for their entry into action.

Soon the advance guard comes up with the reconnaissance detachments and, in conjunction with them, obtains more definite information about the contact.

Under certain conditions, in order to clear up the situation and aid his contemplated maneuver, the Division Commander may order the Brigade Commanders to make local attacks on definite objectives such as observation posts or valuable terrain features. These operations are carried out with limited forces, determined by the Division Commander, and generally only include the advance guards, which are sometimes reinforced, with artillery support and small arms fire.

The Division Commander selects the spot where he intends to open the fight. The forces selected for the operation are led in front of their objectives, toward which they advance dismounted, all the time combining fire and movement. This attack, on a wide front (about four kilometers), made by a force about the size of a brigade, with its flanks protected, may overcome the resistances which have stopped the reconnaissance detachments. After a certain time it will be stopped itself.

But, in this case, the division commander has by successive orders prepared for the intervention, as quickly as possible, of a mass of maneuver which he plans on using at the favorable moment in order to deliver a powerful attack on a narrow front from a point in his front line. This attack would have the support of all available artillery and the maximum of small arms fire.

He will hold out a mobile reserve for use in case of need.

The attack on a narrow front, exactly like that of an infantry attack, has for an object the conquest of objectives whose possession will permit the exploitation of the success obtained. If it succeeds, measures are quickly taken to continue their mission; if it fails, important information will have been obtained on the size and the nature of the enemy's forces.

This method of attack of the cavalry division will generally be employed when the enemy presents a continuous line of fire. At other times, when the outflanking maneuver is possible, the front of the enemy will be held to its position, and the decision will be sought by an action on one of his flanks.

A cavalry attack should, really, utilize to the maximum surprise effect and the special mobility of its means of fire.

But whatever be the maneuver employed, *it can be undertaken only if fire support has first been prepared and organized*, having for its purpose to assure, *in any case*, the possession of a favorable terrain feature. This permits the stopping of the enemy and wards off the effects of a failure. This formation of a "base of fire" is a principle which should be applied in every operation of cavalry.

If a large cavalry force, in carrying out a reconnaissance mission, is not relieved by a large force of all arms when it has established contact with the main body of the enemy, it will be forced very often to fall back before their advance. Its retirement will be methodical and it will attempt to delay the advance of the enemy with whom contact will always be preserved. The power and mobility of the fire which henceforth will belong to a cavalry division allows it to conduct such delaying operation well. (Delaying action is treated here because it generally follows reconnaissance, even though it does not form a part of it.) A delaying action consists in stretching a curtain of fire on successive positions, over a large front, utilizing the maximum range of all weapons.

Faced by a continuous line of fire of some width, the enemy finds it necessary to reconnoiter it and determine its flanks. It is then necessary to attack or seek to outflank it. All this demands time and causes delays proportionate to the favorableness of the ground for such action. The choice of successive delaying positions is really of major importance. One should seek:

A position possessing observation giving a distant view and a field of fire at the long ranges;

To utilize natural obstacles on the front of and on the flanks of the position;

To profit from cover to conceal the dispositions adopted and to facilitate the withdrawal.

The protection of the flanks demands special attention.

Moreover, it will be necessary during the occupation of a position to plan for the occupation of the following position and to establish there in advance some elements of fire; this ought to be provided for in case, for any reason whatsoever, the troops might be forced to fall back under the pressure of the enemy. Experience has shown that one cannot maintain control of nor use forces which have been forced to fall back unless they are under the protection of and act in conjunction with forces that are already in place and organized.

It is necessary then to make a division of the means at one's disposal to satisfy this double necessity.

The enemy, in his advance, which will be observed by light elements left to preserve contact and by aviation, will first of all come under artillery fire which will oblige him to modify his march formation. Then he will fall under the combined fire of the automatic arms and artillery. The more unfavorable the terrain for him, the slower will be his advance. It will be necessary for him to throw forward reconnaissance parties, to determine accurately the line of contact, to bring forward his means of fire, to launch an attack or attempt to outflank the position. But, in this last case, an outflanking movement will in itself be rather long, because the flank of a cavalry force will be covered and its front will be a long one (15-20 kilometers). *The enemy will be delayed.* In many cases it can be estimated that the delay will be prolonged during the whole day.

Besides, his attack will not be awaited; the Division Commander will give the order to withdraw as soon as he shall deem it advisable, either on account of the threat resulting from the advance of the enemy or because he shall estimate that the delay he has caused is sufficient for the accomplishment of his mission.

The withdrawal will be executed methodically, by echelons or by the whole force, depending on the special conditions and the terrain; in any case, the latter should have been reconnoitered and orders issued in ad-

vance. Weak elements will be left in contact with the enemy and measures will be taken to slow up the enemy in front of the chosen position, which shall have been already reconnoitered and partly occupied.

There will come a moment when a large unit of cavalry will no longer retreat, but will resist in place by taking up and *holding a position* according to the special conditions under which it is operating. It will then be reinforced or relieved, but in any case, it will have to resist only on a front in proportion to the means at its disposition.

The accomplishment of a mission of exploration shows clearly all the methods of combat of the cavalry. But their application and the judicious division of strength will vary with each leader and according to special conditions.

It should not be forgotten that a large cavalry force is very often independent. It is necessary to search for the information vital to its own maneuver, while protecting itself to the front and the flanks. The formation of its main body, which includes elements of different natures and of different speeds, should be sufficiently open to escape observation and losses from the enemy. It ought to be sufficiently closed up or in hand to permit its participation in the same action and for its elements to lend each other reciprocal support in the shortest possible time.

Finally, on account of its very isolation, the cavalry division should always be ready either to exploit a success immediately or to ward off disaster. Sometimes it is necessary to drive straight ahead with a powerful attack well supported by a base of fire and covered on its flanks. Other times it will be necessary to fix the front of the enemy and to throw a mass of maneuver on his flank or in his rear.

History shows that at certain times a favorable opportunity has not been seized by the cavalry: it was often only a question of hours. On the other hand, and for the same reasons, glorious actions have been accomplished. As in all human acts, a certain part is left to chance; another and greater part, to experience. The part played by chance can never be suppressed, it can only be diminished to a greater or less degree, in accordance with the value and experience of the cavalry leader, who can never eliminate all the risks but in each particular case must decide what proportion of them he is willing to run.

b. *Cavalry on the Duty of Security.*

Large forces of cavalry on reconnaissance contribute to the safety of armies by the information which they furnish and by their very presence in the region. And, besides, information is the first requisite of safety. In addition, they can be used on a security mission, either independently or in liaison with other branches.

When the cavalry receives a mission of security, the methods that it employs are comparable to those that it uses on reconnaissance. However, the zone of action of large forces of cavalry on security missions is more strictly limited, being dependent on the needs of the troops with which they are serving. The reconnaissance detachments receive zones to explore rather than axes. As a result of this, the cavalry is tied in its rear to the troops that it is protecting, while on reconnaissance, freed from all dependents, the cavalry has no other end but to search for the enemy.

The missions of security given to the cavalry can be thus expressed:

Either by orders to hold a certain line—a mission of a defensive nature—

Or by an order to insure that the troops which it is covering may be able to reach a certain region before the enemy—a mission involving the delaying action anticipated above, though this mission may also, if necessary, change to a defensive one.

In carrying out security missions cavalry may act by its own means alone or be reenforced by large units of all arms transported in trucks.

The present-day tendency of the cavalry along the lines of motorization renders this arm particularly able to use all the transported elements of reenforcement which may be given it.

In the absence of a large force of cavalry reconnaissance groups search in a normal manner for information in advance of the front, establish the first contacts, and contribute to the immediate protection of the troops.

e. *The Cavalry Fights in Liaison with Other Arms.*

During the battle, large cavalry units are employed either in the intervals or on the flanks.

The last war showed clearly the importance of their intervention either by filling an interval between two armies, or by concealing a breach which had become open in the continuous line. In this last case, a large cavalry unit can march rapidly to the threatened point with all its force united, clear up the situation by sending forward a reconnaissance detachment, and by stretching a curtain of fire, or even by gathering around itself isolated units who are leaderless, offer the first organized resistance to the advance of the enemy, thereby permitting the entry into action of reserves of all arms.

Finally, when the tide of battle has turned favorably, the cavalry immediately exploits the success. Its large units attempt to act on the flanks or on the lines of communication of the enemy, to whom they allow no rest, all the while seeking to transform his retreat into a rout. *Against a beaten enemy*, the intervention of cavalry may have a decisive result.

In case of a defeat, cavalry covers the retreat of the large units and conducts a delaying action. If the defeat is serious, cavalry acts according to principles similar to those which it employs to stop up a breach. It opposes the enemy by successive curtains of fire, resists on an important terrain feature which it is vital to keep, attacks if it finds a favorable chance, gains the necessary time to permit the high command to reestablish the situation, and pursues its mission if necessary unto a complete sacrifice, which represents one of its most glorious traditions.

Conclusion

We have rapidly glanced over the past and present of French Cavalry.

What will be its future?

It can be said that the importance of cavalry, as an arm, has not diminished; very much to the contrary.

The experience of the last war has proven that the missions of cavalry are unchangeable; its methods of employment alone vary.

Cavalry must remain a mobile and flexible branch and possess great fire power without being loaded down by it.

For the present the horse is, and doubtless for a long time in the future will be, its best means of maneuver.

But there seems to be a real advantage in motorizing most of its means of supply and the auxiliary services, and a certain proportion of combatant elements.

This proportion remains to be determined; the motor vehicle armed and armored cannot at the present time *replace* the horse; but it can diminish its fatigue by supplementing the mounted combatants in the execution of certain missions and supporting their action under almost all conditions.

Vehicles tied to the road offer very serious inconveniences when it is a question of maneuvering. Also, their employment is anticipated only where other means are lacking.

The cavalry division, as it is constituted *at present* in France, has not an organization that has been definitely decided upon. It represents the result of experience and the necessities imposed by available man power and the financial allowances of the budget.

Only one thing is certain. It is the doctrine prescribing the employment of cavalry in France:

A large cavalry force maneuvers mounted or in automobiles and fights by fire. Mounted combat with the *arm blanche* can be expected only for small units and under special conditions.

Such are the principles which determine the employment of our cavalry.



General Lafont
Late Commandant of The Cavalry School, and recently promoted to
command of a Cavalry Division.

The Cavalry School at Saumur

By GENERAL LAFONT, *lately Commandant of the Cavalry School*

THE Cavalry School at Saumur is, first of all, the military center of instruction for officers and selected non-commissioned officers of the cavalry arm. It is, in addition, a school of equitation and horse training, a school of instruction for veterinarians and farriers, and an automobile school.

All cavalry officers of the active army and of the reserve, and a large part of the non-commissioned officers of this arm, come to Saumur to acquire and develop professional knowledge and, in particular, ability as horsemen.

All veterinarians of the active army and of the reserve, as well as the greater part of the student farriers from all arms of the service, pass through Saumur.

The instruction now given at the school is based on lessons learned from the immediate past, the solid foundation of an experience of several hundred years, and on traditions that go just as far back. In speaking of this, Lieutenant Colonel Picard, a former professor at the school, has very properly written the following: "Thus it may be repeatedly said, that the first pages of our national history are closely interwoven with the school at Saumur and, likewise, the dawn of the equestrian art with the traditions of its riding halls. Saumur is the best place in which to follow, step by step, the progress of cavalry institutions and of equitation, the improvement of which gravitate around the school's activating force."

Tracing its history in reverse order, Saumur has been the seat of the following:

The Cavalry School of Application since 1870.

The Imperial Cavalry School under the Second Empire.

The Royal Cavalry School in 1825.

The National School for Mounted Services in 1814.

From 1763 to 1790, the Military Equitation School for Riflemen.

Before the latter date, the Equitation Academy of the Protestant University founded by Duplessis-Mornay.

Still earlier, it was a school of chivalry where all the rulers of France and foreign countries sent their youth to earn their golden spurs; it saw the famous tournaments that were created by the nobility of Anjou; and its tradition has the distinction of reaching back to the equestrian fêtes held at Saumur in the XI century, to the tournaments of Charles VII, those of Roy René, and of the Plantagenet Henry II, etc.; and still earlier

it saw the renowned Castillians demonstrate their prowess with their tilts and jousts; and even before this, exhibitions of brilliant feats took place in celebration of the memory of even more ancient exploits—great combats of horsemen that took place in this country. This equestrian tradition goes even back to the torrential charges of the Roman and Gallie cavalry that overran the vast meadows of the Loire and the Thouet.

Placed in such an historic setting, the Cavalry School goes on its way impregnated with honor and the spirit of the horseman. Its evolution is necessarily maintained along sane lines by these exceptional traditions.

After the war of 1870-71, the school was reorganized by General Thornton. On account of the then existing conditions, which were similar to those of the present, it was necessary to give training to another category of men, that is, to selected soldiers who would normally have been intended for duty as non-commissioned officers in cavalry regiments. This plan for securing reserve material was done away with in 1880, the purpose having been accomplished. With this reserve built up, the school was again put back on its former basis.

Under the command of a general or colonel, with a colonel or lieutenant colonel as assistant commandant, the operation of the school was carried on by means of the following:

1. A horsemanship department, generally called the "Service du Manège". This department was under the direction of a field officer, the "Ecuyer-en-Chef".
2. A military instruction department, directed by a field officer as senior instructor of military exercises.
3. A general instruction department, directed by a field officer known as the "Directeur des Etudes".
4. A veterinary service, comprising a veterinary school and a school for horseshoers. This service was also charged with handling the ordinary veterinary work of the school, and was directed by a veterinarian of field grade.
5. An administrative service, directed by a field officer called the "Commandant Major". This service comprised a group of officers and non-commissioned officers who were assigned to the different departments and services to handle instruction and administrative matters for the different student classes. These latter were:

a The class for senior first lieutenants—officers who were preparing themselves for the grade of captain.

b The class for newly commissioned second lieutenants, just out of Saint-Cyr.

c The class for non-commissioned officers. These men had to pass a special examination for entrance to the school and were commissioned



General Thureau

second lieutenants upon passing satisfactorily a final examination at the end of the course.

Between 1901 and 1905, Colonel (later General) Dubois, assisted by the above organization, gave the school a very substantial impulse, all the while maintaining the high standard of instruction in horsemanship and encouraging officers to participate in all kinds of sporting events. He gave a proper orientation to military instruction, especially tactical instruction, which has ever since followed along the lines he indicated. He raised the general level of officers and allowed them to acquire a foundation of knowledge and habits of application which not only prepared them for their more or less immediate duties as captains, but also gave them the incentive to pursue higher studies and perfect themselves still further.

As a result of the war of 1914-1918, the school was completely upset. In August, 1914, all the instructors and students were scattered among various units over the different battlefields. There, very many of them gave their blood and died for their country. Others, more fortunate, contributed their very best to the very end—the victory which was the fruit of French valor, spirit and genius. This genius proved to be most capable in adapting itself and in knowing how to coordinate and utilize the courage, energy and possibilities of all the various allies.

In the course of the years 1915 and 1916, young men from cavalry organizations were sent to the school, where, in a series of courses of six months each, they were made into aspirants, or future officers. During the same period, the school received remounts and trained them, using, as means for this work, groups of properly qualified reserve officers and

non-commissioned officers of former classes. In 1917, the school became the seat of an artillery school for the United States army, just entered into the war.

In March, 1919, Colonel (later General) Thureau was given the difficult mission of reconstituting the Cavalry School.

Colonel Thureau, a former instructor at Saumur, a magnificent soldier during the war, commander of a regiment of Cuirassiers à pied, was selected to undertake this task because he was perfectly qualified to adopt the old traditions, with which he was fully imbued, to the new methods that had developed in the war and with which he was well versed, and to adjust a tested organization to a form of instruction that had to be renewed.

General Thureau took, as the foundation of the reconstruction, the old traditional group of departments and services, and to these he added a new one.

In the course of the war, the Cavalry had to admit a certain fact regarding which it had already been presented with evidence; but, on account of its traditional esprit, it had little inclination to examine this evidence. Shock action by large mounted units had been made impossible on account of the increase in fire power. As a corollary, mounted troops were usually not able to accomplish much unless they themselves could produce powerful fire effect. Out of this conception—not a new one, but a recently admitted one—were born the cavalry armored cars. A new service, the Cavalry Armored Car Instruction Center, was therefore established at the school with a field officer in charge.

The most difficult thing was the re-establishment of the horsemanship department. Out of all the large number of well trained horses on hand in the school in 1914, none now remained. All the well conditioned animals, so methodically and carefully trained and prepared for the thorough instruction of students, had disappeared in August, 1914, scattered all over the army.

Although justified by events, the total loss of this precious stock of horses seemed at this time to be irreparable. France, bled white, was compelled, in rebuilding her horse stock which was now totally inadequate to her needs, to buy mediocre horses from foreign markets, and these, at high prices. How could she build up this collection of trained horses that had been the admiration of the entire world? She went at the task, however, and at the present time it may be said that she has done well. Even if the horses, now at Saumur, are not exactly on a par with those found there in 1914, one may say at least that no other school in the world can match them. In order to succeed in this undertaking, General Thureau had to be sure of securing the assistance of the one man who was, without doubt, at that time fully capable of helping him; he needed a major who was at the same time a good horseman, an instructor



Colonel Wattel, Ecuyer-en-Chef

and an organizer, one with enough prestige to be felt by officers who, in this respect, counted only war service as their standard. Commandant Wattel was this man. A former assistant instructor in horsemanship, later an instructor, then a captain in command of a troop of cavalry, and finally, commander of a battalion of tanks during the war, he was already an admired écuyer and a very skillful performer in outdoor riding.

He showed himself to be an able and forceful organizer.

If the school of today, which started with nothing in 1919, is again proud to possess a corps of riding instructors, unique as to type, and a group of horses that no other school can match in point of numbers and variety, she certainly owes it to French resourcefulness, to her very own traditions which are among the oldest and most perfect in type, but she also owes it to Colonel Wattel.

At present, the Cavalry School, which is constantly undergoing a process of evolution within its traditional boundaries, is frankly committed to a doctrine of combat by fire action and employment of all possible means that will augment fire power. But it is still convinced of the necessity of having cavalry whose missions are the same as ever; and that, in the execution of these missions, it is of capital importance that two of the cavalry's essential qualities be carefully preserved, namely, mobility over all terrain, and ability to maneuver.



Armored Cars

The study of the tactics of combined arms, which is the foundation of all military instruction, is likewise the basis of the work given in the school. The instruction given is adapted to the possibilities of each category of students; it is presented in the form of courses, with particular emphasis placed on classroom and terrain exercises where each student receives a mission in an exercise that always brings the combined arms into play. This tends to develop reasoning power and initiative in each one.

By utilizing the foundations thus established in the course of these studies, the military instruction gives the necessary training in technique of execution. It also orients the students along the lines of instructional methods which they will have to put into practice after rejoining their regiments. It develops their physical powers and personal skill in the use of arms dismounted as well as mounted. The school utilizes for this purpose, a number of installations and pieces of terrain which, depending upon priority established by necessity and available resources, are being perfected each year. The terrain in the vicinity of Terrefort is one that is particularly utilized now for dismounted instruction and it will soon be in condition to be used for mounted work.

From now on, instruction on the subject of automobiles is to be one of the branches of technical military instruction. It is quite special and the work which it entails is heavy enough to have made necessary the creation of a particular service or department. The tactical employment of armored car units and motorized units is taught by the Departments

of General and Military Instruction; while the technical instruction on the subject of motors and of armored vehicles is conducted by the Armored Car Instruction Center. All student classes receive this instruction.

On account of the lessons we learned from the war, and in accordance with our military system of providing reserves for the army, a special category of students has come to Saumur since the war. These are the student officers of the reserve. They come from two different sources. The greater part of them, graduates of certain large national schools, are accepted on presentation of two diplomas, one for scholarship, and the other for having certain military preparation. The remainder of this category is made up of young men who have already served six months in the army and have passed a satisfactory entrance examination to the Cavalry School. Each year, about two hundred of these young men take, at Saumur, a course which lasts six months and in which each is prepared to hold a commission as platoon commander in the reserve. On being commissioned at the end of this course at the school, each of them completes the last six months of his military service by a tour of duty in a regiment.

Another integral part of the Cavalry School is the Veterinary School whose function is to train the veterinarians of the entire army. Its director is also the chief of the veterinary service of the Cavalry School. In instructing these students, advantage is taken of all the animals in the whole school. There is thus available a field and operating clinic of unusual importance and extreme variety. In a manner similar to that which I have outlined above for cavalry reserve lieutenants, about sixty young men who have graduated from the three great national veterinary schools, pursue here each year a course of five months' duration, after which they are commissioned as second lieutenants in the veterinary reserve.

The school for horseshoers, which is an annex to the Veterinary School, instructs about one hundred and sixty students per year, in two courses of six months each.

Finally, it has been found necessary to give, at Saumur, two annual courses of three months each for regular non-commissioned officers.

Such, in rather broad lines, is the organization of the school that has been developed by General Thureau and his successor.

The institution is, therefore, a military school where all subjects pertaining to general tactics and technique are taught for the improvement of officers and future officers. In this general scheme, the time allotted to equitation certainly is not now as great as it was formerly. But, nevertheless, it should be remarked that it is to the equestrian instruction and the ancient traditions connected therewith, that Saumur owes its prestige before officers, and particularly, before interested civilian horsemen, and the spreading of its brilliant reputation all over the world. One may

say that, especially within the last few years, the influence of Saumur has been considerable, even upon the few who would pretend to ignore it.

At the time when the Royal Cavalry School was reconstituted under the Restoration, the traditions of French equitation had, for the most part, disappeared. During the wars of the Revolution of the Empire, the cavalry had been allowed very little time for such instruction, and there were few instructors. The important thing was to build up again the corps of instructors. In the French equitation of the XVII and XVIII centuries, more attention was paid to form than to principles. The trend in horsemanship was toward certain objectives, the attainment of which gave men of title a certain amount of distinction. These objectives had been fixed by the experience of famous riding teachers and qualified masters, wherefore success in this line signified a certain mastership. But although certain of the most famous riding masters, in particular la Gueriniere and d'Auvergne, wrote books on equitation, it was especially by means of the oral tradition, by lessons, that the art was handed down.

One of the most celebrated equitation schools was that of the King's equerry, the school at Versailles. This was revived at the time of the Restoration and two very noted teachers of the school, the two d'Abzae brothers, were in charge of it in turn.

The Versailles school reacted on Saumur not only by the traditions that it brought back into vogue but, especially, by the work of a man of great reputation who, after having been a student under the d'Abzaes, became the écuyer-en-chef of the Cavalry School at Saumur—Count d'Aure. He was an innovator in that he modernized the old school and adapted it to the new requirements of military riding. We are indebted to him for the equestrian doctrine that is, at present, the basis of mounted instruction in the French Army. One of his pupils acquired a reputation equal to his own. This man played a particularly important role at Saumur due to the fact that he was, first, a student officer at the school, then an écuyer or instructor in the department of horsemanship, later écuyer en chef (director), and finally commanded the school as a general. I refer to General L'Hotte.

The horsemanship instruction given at the school has a double objective: first, to make, as nearly as possible, a perfect rider who is at home on a horse out of doors, and can train his horses skillfully; and second, to prepare the officers as instructors, qualified to such a degree that they may choose from their own knowledge the necessary means that should be applied in instructing troops.

This instruction has been cut to the absolute minimum; to reduce still further the time allotted to horsemanship would be a serious mistake. Each reserve cavalry officer and each reserve veterinary officer rides a trained horse every day. Each regular officer in the classes rides a trained horse and a remount. The time spent in riding the trained horses,

which time is utilized to the maximum, is designed to make the officers strong, skillful riders, and to show them proper instructional methods. The time spent on the remounts is supposed to teach the students how to train horses, how to direct such training, and to provide a means of advancing to a certain degree the training of the animals assigned to them.

It should be noted that this method of instruction provides the school with a means of replacing, each year, the unsound or unsuitable animals by others that are properly disciplined and trained.

The remounts are kept in training for one or more years, according to the difficulties encountered. They are not put into the groups of so called trained horses until it is certain that all serious resistances and faults have been eliminated. This method has made it possible to avoid almost completely, the serious accidents that were formerly of frequent occurrence.

Our greatest military horseman, General L'Hotte, has written the following: "In equitation, a person should know a very great deal to be qualified to teach even the elements of the subject." Actually these words are not applicable solely to equitation; they apply equally well to all instruction.

In proportion as the time allotted for training is reduced, the faster must that training be speeded up, the higher must be the qualifications and attainments of the instructor, and the more capable must the individual trainers be.

Officers must be thorough horsemen to be able to get the maximum efficiency out of horses, with a minimum of loss. This is true not only during instruction but under actual service conditions as well. The maintenance, conservation and proper handling of horses are some of the essentials that affect tactical employment of cavalry.

In order to be as real and thorough a horseman as is necessary, a man must of course have, primarily, the desire to be such; and he must have, as well, a liking for equitation and the will to improve himself.

Officers who have become good horsemen have, by this very fact, established for themselves, before their troops, a prestige which is an undeniable element of authority.

The practice of bold riding contributes to the moral equipment of officers when it is prompted by a voluntary desire that is backed up by self-confidence and the knowledge of what one is capable of doing. Such is the equitation practiced by intelligent, well trained riders. Scatter-brains and rough riders do not have this conception of bold riding.

From another point of view, it is absolutely necessary for officers to follow a kind of riding that is not purely empirical. They should be familiar with a higher equitation, one that will improve them while applying its principles, one that will continue to foster in them, as they grow older, the desire to continue to ride a horse.



Finish of a Steeple Chase at Verrie

In a word, by giving officers and future officers the benefit of a very thorough instruction in horsemanship, we take care of the present and prepare for the future; we actually give them an important part of their professional equipment; and at the same time we require them to keep fit and to perfect themselves. In addition, they are given a source of sane and worthwhile diversion. They are thus protected from the idleness and monotony that are often to be found in small garrisons.

Too many people judge the horsemanship instruction given at the Cavalry School by witnessing only the instructor's school rides. In order to keep these instructors qualified to the highest degree for their work, they are required to specialize during their tour at the school. They constitute a sort of academy that is necessary for the preservation and perfecting of the methods which give our equitation its value.

It goes without saying that, no matter what one's nationality may be, in order to ride well, one must obtain from the horse a submission that is characterized by the same effects in every country in the world. There are many schools, but there is only one kind of equitation, and that is the good kind. The apparent form of this equitation may, moreover, appear to vary. It is admitted that the variety of our breeds, the amount of blood in some of our horses which is occasionally too much in proportion to their conformation, and the necessity to use as riding animals those horses that are not suitable, have compelled us to abandon in our equitation a certain formalism that is in vogue in other countries. Our method tends more toward utilizing the horse's natural forces to the fullest extent rather than the idea of constraining him. This gives an equitation that is smooth and unrestricted. The beautiful seat of the French horseman, so elegant, easy and natural, is used as a model. It is not a matter of wonder that the accomplished horsemen of other countries try to copy that refinement in applying the aids, a refinement which gives the touch of distinction to the "Reprises des Ecuyers", or instructors' school rides, at Saumur. We call this the "secret of the aids".



Finish of a Steeple Chase for Officers

This view shows a portion of the terrain at Verrie where steeple chase and cross country events are held and where most of the outdoor jumping is done in the spring. Over 300 excellent jumps of all kinds are to be found here.

The number of horses in the school varies from twelve hundred to thirteen hundred, of which seven hundred are allotted to the horsemanship department for all work of instruction. From this number, each student is assigned one remount. In addition to riding the remount every day, each student rides, on alternate days, a jumper or a schooled horse. In using the latter, the rider is supposed to acquire a correct seat and a finesse in employment of the aids. It should be remembered that we have not yet succeeded in again producing the same quality of schooled horses that we had before the war. The reason for this is that our riders have not yet recovered the same ability. Moreover, it should be understood that particularly well trained horses should be available for this instruction. This is necessary because the schooled horses are ridden by everybody and are compelled to undergo the different reactions of all the various riders.

There is available also for the students a group of special horses. They may be used by those who have the desire and ability to train animals properly for, and to participate in, race meets and horse shows.

The department of horsemanship is provided with five riding halls. Four of these are of the same dimensions, about 295 by 98 feet. The fifth one is about 148 by 49 feet. This department uses also a piece of terrain called Bray, which is quite near the school, and finally, the famous big steeple chase course at Verrie, which is about five miles from the school.

The courses for the greater part of the students are of ten months duration, from October 1st to July 30th. During the last two weeks in July, a number of outdoor contests and sporting events are held. The "Carrousel", an equestrian exhibition that is presented on the field of that name, closes the school year. In 1918, this exhibition was given for the one hundredth time. This spectacle, which is presented according to a



The Carrousel

program that has suffered practically no change, attracts thousands of visitors to Saumur.

Thus, a very colorful and brilliant affair brings to a close the students' year of hard work. This work is a severe test for the troop officers who are supposed to find, each day, during the rare minutes that are not occupied with the many and varied kinds of exercises, the necessary time for serious personal work. This is why we say that the course is, for them, a physical and moral test. Those who come through it creditably are truly officers on whom one may count in any circumstance. They are energetic, intelligent, resolute and can think for themselves. These are indispensable qualities for a cavalry officer.

Les Haras

The Horse Breeding System and Its Administration in France

LE VICOMTE DE TONNAC-VILLENEUVE, *Director and Inspector General.*

Historical Outline

FRENCH soil has always produced noteworthy horses. Under Henry IV and Louis XIII breeding prospered greatly, but Richelieu's reforms gave it a fatal blow which soon caused horse supply to fall below actual needs.

In order to correct this state of things, a government breeding administration was inaugurated by royal decree on October 17, 1665. This breeding system originated by Colbert, and revived by Napoleon I in 1806, has always inspired the successive reorganizations which have been necessitated by the course of events and by economic reasons. It was in line with the formula, "The State itself should do those things which private individuals will not or can not do."

The wars during the reign of Louis XIV exhausted the horse population to such an extent that France again had to import horses. It is estimated that, in ten years, one hundred million francs were spent in importing horses to supply the needs of the army. As time went on, new measures were taken. A law, enacted in 1717, directed the government breeding administration to assign directors to provinces, and enunciated clearly the role of the State in connection with horse production. This system, which was in force up to the time of the Revolution, restored to France her former prosperity in horse production.

In spite of the resistance of several deputies, in 1790 the breeding administration was ordered suppressed because of its prohibitive cost. It actually passed out of existence in 1791 by decree of the National Assembly. This measure caused such a rapid decline in horse production that the requisitions of 1793 and 1794 used up not only the colts but also all the stallions and brood mares. In a few years all evidence of the former careful work had disappeared. However, the error soon became apparent. A little later, a law provided for the re-establishment of seven depots for stallions. A report, presented to the Council of Five Hundred, prepared the way for the decree of 1806. As a result of the latter, the administration was reorganized with thirty breeding depots and six administrative centers; and at the same time, the Central Committee, which was to become later the Superior Council, was founded.

From time to time, the complaints of those opposed to the state breeding system became so loud that it was necessary to assemble these people and look into their grievances. Each time, after careful study, it



Le Vicomte de Tonnac-Villeneuve
Director and Inspector General of **Les Haras.**

was decided to maintain or augment that which existed. However, certain changes were made, the principal one relating to the number of establishments. In 1850, these attacks became stronger and two schools of thought developed. One side, convinced that breeding is the business of the farmer and that private industry, free from all administrative control, is better able than the state to find the right way of doing things, demanded the suppression of the state organization and, still more, the payment of certain sums of money in the form of bounties for breeding and training. The other side, profiting by past experience, considered horse production to be a thing much too costly, too hard to handle, and too delicate to be carried on by private enterprise. The breeding depots were retained, and 600,000 francs were added to the budget in order to satisfy the partisans of the former plan.

In 1863, the plan of transfer of stallions was tried. This gave such insignificant results that the idea was abandoned after a trial of one year. Immediately following the war of 1870, a reorganization became imperative. The law of May 29, 1874, provided for twenty-two breeding depots, specified the administrative personnel, and re-established the Superior Council and Breeding Administration School. The total number of stallions (for national service) was brought up to 2,500; and the number at the Pompadour Breeding Station was fixed at 60. The full effect of this law began to be felt about 1881; and the Pompadour Station was functioning at top efficiency by 1877.

Since that time, laws passed in 1892 and 1900 increased the number of stallions, respectively, to 3,000 and 3,450. Under this regime, horse breeding enjoyed an era of great prosperity. The development of breeding and the quality of the animals produced were plainly evident at the Exposition in 1900 and at the Producers' Central Stock Show in 1905.

During the last war, all of our different breeds of horses were put to the severest kind of test. Their value has been so highly appreciated that most of the allied countries have asked us to export our horses, either for reproduction purposes or for regular work and service animals.

However, immediately after the war, the budget was loaded down with heavy burdens, and economies had to be practiced in all departments. A law passed in December, 1921, reduced the total number of stallions for national service to 3,300; and another law of April, 1926, imposed a new reduction of 50 animals, while one depot was done away with.

This historical outline shows that the periods of animal prosperity have corresponded exactly with the different reorganizations of the breeding service. When, on the other hand, measures were passed to suppress or reduce the effectiveness of the service, the quantity and quality of animals fell off so rapidly that it was necessary to re-establish whatever had been abolished.

Policy of the Administration

The goal at which the administration has always aimed since its creation has been the conservation and improvement of French horse breeds. It attempts to guide the breeders in producing, in each region, a horse best fitted for the needs of national defense, agriculture and commerce, always taking into account the local geological, climatic and economic conditions. To this end, the administration:

1. Puts at the disposal of breeders, particularly the small farmers and the other less fortunate ones, those stallions of the type found in the particular local breeding establishment.
2. Brings to the attention of breeders, through the efforts of breeding administration officials, those privately owned stallions which are considered the most suitable to improve the breed.
3. Places great stress on using the best brood mares, and assures the renewal of good breeding stock by procuring, by state subsidy, the best fillies.
4. Encourages breeding in every way as, for example, by sponsoring horse shows and races, by helping to establish committees of horse and mule breeders, and by registering approved stallions, brood mares and military remounts.

Does all this mean that the administration exercises a sort of monopoly in horse production? Certainly not. In fact, one may read in the annual report which the Director of the Administration forwards to the Minister of Agriculture that, in 1925, there were only 3,216 stallions belonging to the state. On the other hand, the following figures give the classification, by number, of privately owned stallions: 2,121 "approved", 553 "authorized", and 2,709 "accepted".

There is, therefore, in no sense a state monopoly. Instead, there is a cooperative action between the state and private owners. Briefly, the role of the state administration is as follows: It buys a superior stallion of a certain breed for which a large enough price is paid to reimburse the producer, breeder and dealer, who often can sell only one out of several stallions produced. His model stallion is then placed in that region where his service will be most valuable in improving the breed. He is thus put in service for a purpose that is essentially democratic, at a very low fee that is within reach of the humblest farmer. The raising of fillies is encouraged by the administration in the same manner as are mares—by holding competitive exhibitions in the localities where the animals are bred, and even in those places where there is normally little interest in horse raising.

The expenses connected with breeding, which are initially borne by the farmer, are eventually assumed in great part by the state, which, by its sacrifice, thus creates a source of wealth for the community. This is

*Allegro II*

Pure bred Anglo-Arab, bay, 15-3". Foaled 1926 in the Hautes-Pyrenees district. Winner of the first prize for pure bred Anglo-Arab stallions, three years and above, at the 1929 Concours Central d'Animaux Reproducteurs, Paris.

an agricultural wealth, since we have the finest draft breeds in the world; it is a wealth for national defense which, in 1914, enabled us to find at hand, in our own country, thousands of remarkable horses of quality and endurance, suitable for all sorts of purposes; and, finally, this is a source of wealth for export purposes, because our breeds have such a reputation that missions from many foreign countries come every year to France to buy sires of blooded stock as well as draft animals that have been improved by our breeding system. Thus do they all pay homage to our administration. Their purchases are usually made at the time of our large annual stock shows, of which the one held at Paris (le Concours Central) is the finest. This show, which was revived in 1924, has included each year nearly one thousand horses, brought together from all parts of France. This exhibition, unique as to kind, gives a general idea of the present breeding situation in France.

Our breed of the English thoroughbred is not always represented at the Paris show, but it is nevertheless to be found in France. It has everywhere given us such wonderful proof of remarkable vitality and high quality that we now vie, on even terms, with the British.

Our racing trotters of today are fast enough to beat the best of foreign racers. Besides this, the fact that they perform under saddle gives

them an undeniable superiority. At the same time, this proves their quality as weight bearers—a thing that is unknown in other countries.

The sires described as "saddle types", whether they be of our marvelous Anglo-Arab type or of our breeds of purer strain, have once more demonstrated the fact that we may find right here at home, developed to a marked degree, either heavy-weight hunters that are as good as any of the Irish type, or animals of light weight that are as well bred as the best of Oriental horses. These two extremes, and the intermediate types as well, are becoming more and more plentiful with us. In whatever region we may choose to look, we may now find an increasingly large number of horses of all types that are suitable for their intended uses; and they are well developed, balanced and capable of bearing a saddle in its proper place.

All this is to the honor of our breeding regions, such as: Avranchin, Hague, Contentine, the plains of Caen, Merlerault, the Auge Valley, the Brittany Mountains, Vendée, Boeage, Charentes, Médoc, Bidache, the Tarbes plain, the Gramat plateau, Limousin, Charollais, Dombes, and still others whose breeding guarantee to our cavalry a superior type of horse.

The half-bred sires of the "Attelage" or harness type used to be quite in evidence in our shows. Nowadays the tendency is more and more toward the "Cob", which type is suitable for both commercial and artillery purposes. However, the blood strains of this type vary quite widely with the various included breeds of which each bears its own peculiar stamp. They are all suitable for draft purposes. Their medium proportions fit them particularly for military draft. They are sturdy and full of energy. Some have a superior blood strain that tends to compensate for small size, such as the Anglo-Norman and his derivatives; others approach the draft size, at the same time maintaining lightness of action as, for example, the Breton "Postier".

Our draft horse is thriving. On account of his daily use, and due to the fact that he is salable at any age, he is an economic feature that always pays his own way. He is part of a precious military reserve on which we may draw freely in an hour of need. In this respect he has proven his worth. He has shown himself to be, in his own way, a troop horse. He did his full duty in this respect at the front in the Great War. He is found in several very celebrated breeds in different parts of France as, for example, in the following regions: Perche, Maine, Bretagne, Boulonnais, Ardennes, Lorraine, Nivernais, Auxios, Franche Comté, etc.

All of these draft breeds, improved to the point of being able to reproduce themselves by simple selection, are uniformly suitable for heavy draft. The distinctive characteristics are carefully preserved in each breed and, consequently, the purity of strain assures to each breed



Egbert

Half-bred Anglo-Arab, foaled in 1926 in the Hautes-Pyrénées district. Stands 16-0". First prize winner in class for qualified half-bred Anglo-Arab stallions at the Paris Show (1929).

a constancy of heredity. In addition, the exceptional gaits, which are the real trademark of French draft horses, are always faithfully transmitted.

At present, all of our breeds are being more and more concentrated in their original or native heaths, in which atmosphere their natural breed qualities are guarded and further developed. The breeding administration, faithful to its mission, maintains or modifies these qualities according to the variable demands of consumption, no matter whether this develops from wartime needs or the work of peace.

Organization and Functioning of the Administration

The following brief outline shows the different organs and means at the disposal of the administration for encouraging and directing national horse production.

Management. The breeding administration is one of the bureaus under the Minister of Agriculture. At its head there is an Inspector General who has the function of director. It is divided into three sub-bureaus, two of which have administrative functions and the third, technical.

Role of the Administration. This is governed by the organic law of May 29, 1874. Briefly, its business is to assure and encourage horse production in every way. For this purpose it maintains so called "National" stallions in twenty-two depots, each depot being in a region that comprises a certain number of departments (geographic). At the head of each depot there is a director who has the following assistants under him: an assistant director (accountant), one or more overseers, a veterinarian, a senior non-commissioned officer, several corporals, and grooms.

Recruitment of Personnel. The officers are selected, by competitive means, from graduates of the Institute of Agriculture, which gives a practical course at the Breeding Service School at Le Pin, where one of the principal depots is located. Grooms are recruited by giving preference to former soldiers who have served with mounted regiments and have been recommended by the War Department. If the supply of men from this source is insufficient, then other suitable men are found.

Depots. The twenty-two depots, where the "national" stallions are kept, are at the following places: Angers, Annecy, Aurillac, Besancon, Blois, Cluny, Compiegne, Hennebont, Lamballe, La Roche-sur-Yon, Libourne, Montier-en-Der, Pau, Le Pin, Pompadour, Rodez, Rosieres, Saintes, Saint-Lo, Strasbourg, Tarbes, Villeneuve-sur-Lot.

The stallions of a particular depot are kept assembled there for six months out of the year. They are then distributed, in groups of varying numbers, in the different parts of the region. Each one of these groups then constitutes a sort of sub-station to which mares are brought to be covered.

Mares in the Department of Corse are served at the station at Rodez; but the stallions that serve at the Rodez station actually come from the permanent depot of Ajaccio, which is under the command of an officer of the breeding administration.

The depot at Pin and the one at Pompadour serve very extensive areas. Under the director at each of these places, there is an administrator who actually manages the depot.

The depot at Pompadour includes a "jumenterie" (breeding establishment for raising stallions), the sole function of which is the production of Anglo-Arab stallions. The foals thus produced are all given a training similar to that given all stallions intended for public service. The best of them are allotted as permanent effectives in the establishments of the Midi or are kept for service of the "jumenterie" itself. The others are sold at public auction.

Inspection. The twenty-two depots are distributed among six inspection regions (*arrondissements d'inspection générale*), each region being placed under the authority of an Inspector General of the administration.



Enflamme

Half-bred Norman, foaled in 1926 in the Calvados district. Stands 16-1". First prize winner in class for stallions of this breed at the 1929 Paris Show. The State paid \$1600.00 for this animal.

National Stallions. The total number of national stallions in each establishment is composed of animals of a type suitable for the needs of the region. This number depends upon the type and breed. Our different types of pure-bred animals are the following: the thoroughbred (English), the pure-bred Arab, and the pure-bred Anglo-Arab. The different types of half-bred animals include the following: the half-bred Anglo-Arab, the Anglo-Norman, the Vendean, the Charentais, and the Charollais. The draft type includes the following breeds: Ardennais, Auxois, Boulonnais, Comtois, Nivernais, Breton, Percheron, and mules.

"Approved" Stallions. When Inspectors General consider certain privately owned stallions as suitable to improve the breed, such stallions are then awarded certificates of approval. In addition, if the animals fulfill certain conditions, they are awarded bounties which vary with the type.

"Qualified" Stallions. They are those animals considered by the

Inspectors General as being capable of reproduction without exerting a deteriorating effect on the breed. These stallions have an official stabling but receive no bounties.

"Accepted" Stallions. They, while being neither approved nor accepted, are however considered as worthy material for reproduction. They simply receive certificates which permit them to be used for breeding. These certificates are awarded by a commission that is appointed by the Minister of Agriculture.

Financial Aid. The budget of the breeding administration is supported by appropriations made by Parliament, and by taking a certain proportion of funds from Pari-Mutuel earnings at race meetings.

This financial assistance is used for the following purposes:

1. To assist in putting on animal shows in which are featured, particularly, fillies, entire colts, brood mares, and tests for stallions.
2. As subsidies to the different horse and mule breeding societies.
3. As subsidies to racing associations.

Stud Book for Pure-Bred Animals. The Directorship of the administration keeps up to date and publishes the stud book of pure-bred horses foaled in France or imported. This record includes the stallions, brood mares and foals of thoroughbreds, pure-bred Arabs, and pure-bred Anglo-Arabs.

Stud Book Board. This board, after examining proofs, decides all questions affecting the entries in the Stud Book in cases of all animals foaled abroad.

Superior Council. This body, composed of administration representatives from all the breeding regions, gives advice on questions relating to breeding and horse production.

Consulting Committee for Racing. This committee studies questions that pertain to the establishment of racing and the details connected with its conduct.

Joint Breeding and Remount Board. This is composed of breeding administration officers and representatives of the War Department. It considers breeding questions from the point of view of army requirements and national defense.

The following tables, compiled for the years 1903 and 1913 before the war, and for the years 1918, 1925 and 1926 following the war, show the general trend followed by the administration in fixing the proportions of the total number of animals. One notices the increasing importance placed on draft types, which proved themselves to be real cavalry horses in addition to their normal job of pulling heavy loads. It is worth noting that, since 1926, the "Postier," which is coming to resemble more and more the draft type, has been included in that category.

Total Number of Stallions by Type

December 31, 1903.

Pure Bred	{ English	247.....	7.69%	}.....18.28%
	Arab	104.....	3.24%	
	Anglo-Arab	236.....	7.35%	

Total pure bred 587

Half Bred (includes 108 "Postiers")	2,109.....	69.68%
Draft	515.....	16.04%

Total number of stallions..... 3,211

December 31, 1913.

Pure Bred	{ English	229.....	6.63%	}.....15.66%
	Arab	101.....	2.93%	
	Anglo-Arab	211.....	6.11%	

Total pure bred 541

Half Bred (includes 504 "Postiers")	2,157.....	62.45%
Draft	756.....	21.89%

Total number of stallions..... 3,454

December 31, 1918.

Pure Bred	{ English	168.....	4.87%	}.....13.37%
	Arab	98.....	2.84%	
	Anglo-Arab	195.....	5.66%	

Total pure bred 461

Half Bred (includes 693 "Postiers")	2,083.....	60.39%
Draft	905.....	26.24%

Total number of stallions..... 3,449

December 31, 1925

Pure Bred	{ English	103.....	3.11%	}.....7.96%
	Arab	60.....	1.81%	
	Anglo-Arab	101.....	3.04%	

Total pure bred 264

Half Bred (includes 455 "Postiers")	1,348.....	40.65%
Draft	1,704.....	51.39%

Total number of stallions..... 3,316

December 31, 1926

Pure Bred	<table> <tr> <td>English</td><td>97.....</td><td>2.93%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Arab</td><td>55.....</td><td>1.66%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Anglo-Arab</td><td>88.....</td><td>2.65%</td></tr> </table>	English	97.....	2.93%	Arab	55.....	1.66%	Anglo-Arab	88.....	2.65%	7.24%
English	97.....	2.93%									
Arab	55.....	1.66%									
Anglo-Arab	88.....	2.65%									

Total pure bred 240

Half Bred.....	870.....	26.26%
Draft	2,203.....	66.50%

Total number of stallions..... 3,313

January 1, 1928

Pure Bred	<table> <tr> <td>English</td><td>94.....</td><td>2.88%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Arab</td><td>49.....</td><td>1.50%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Anglo-Arab</td><td>91.....</td><td>2.79%</td></tr> </table>	English	94.....	2.88%	Arab	49.....	1.50%	Anglo-Arab	91.....	2.79%	7.17%
English	94.....	2.88%									
Arab	49.....	1.50%									
Anglo-Arab	91.....	2.79%									

Total pure bred 234

Half Bred	825.....	25.27%
Draft	2,206	67.56%

Total number of stallions..... 3,265

Exports

Since the war the flow of foreign sales has again reached a certain volume, although the number of our horses exported is not as large as might be desired for the purpose of helping to relieve our commercial balance. As a compensation, however, the selections made by the buyers include stallions of high merit from all breeds, for which these foreigners pay top prices. The following gives an idea of the principal purchasers and what they buy:

Pure-bred Arab: Spain, Italy, Brazil.

Pure-bred Anglo-Arab: Spain, Italy, Brazil, Cuba, Madagascar, Switzerland.

Half-bred Anglo-Arab: Spain, Brazil, Madagascar.

Half-bred Anglo-Norman: Spain, Japan, Argentina, Austria, Germany, Poland.

Draft "Postier" (Breton): Spain, Italy, Brazil, Lithuania, Poland, Argentina.

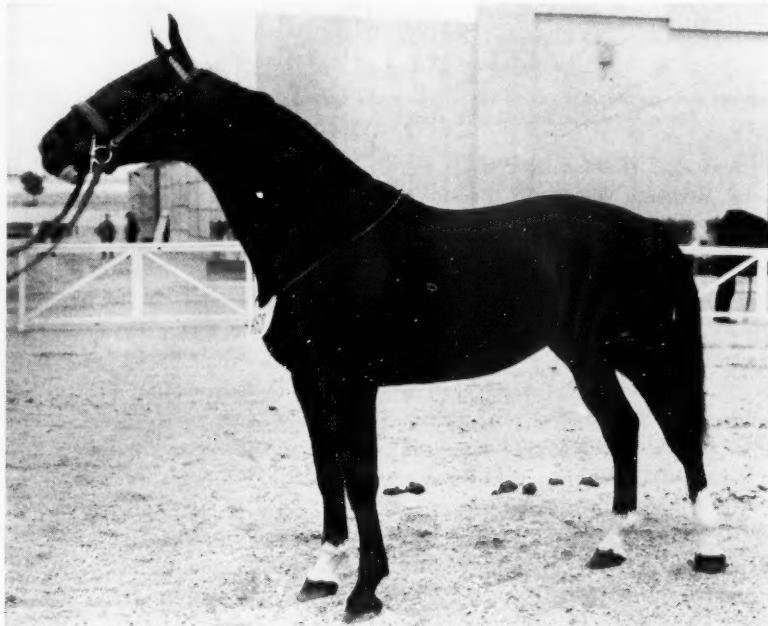
Draft Boulonnais: Spain, Brazil, Argentine, Poland, Russia.

Draft Percheron: Japan, Argentine.

This is proof of the esteem in which our French breeds are held. One may, in this connection, cite a few passages from a letter addressed January 4, 1926, to M. Regismanset, Director of Economics for the Ministry of Colonies, by Señor Gerbex, Secretary General of the Saddle Horse Breeders' Association at Buenos Aires:

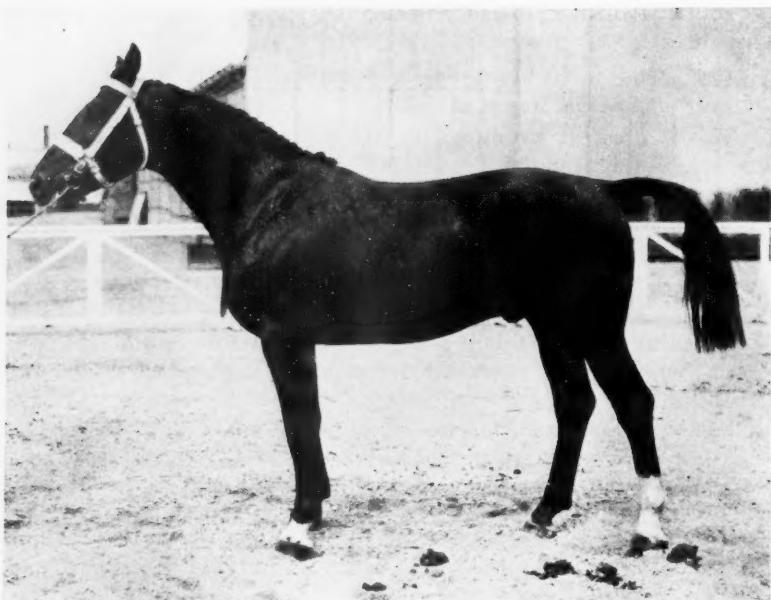
"The horse breeding organization that functions in France is a model of its kind and is worthy in every way of being copied. Proof of this excellent system is indicated by the admirable results attained. French horses of all breeds are everywhere considered to be of the highest order." . . .

"The purchases made in France by Señor Martinez de Hoz, President of our Breeders' Association, have arrived at Buenos Aires. This is a group of forty-three sires and dams of French breed, bought for the purpose of producing light artillery horses. These animals have attracted



Enjoleur

Saddle type Vendeen half-bred, foaled in 1926. Stands 15-3". Winner of class for Breton, Vendeen and Charentais half-bred stallions, of 3 years and above, at the 1929 Paris Show.



Eiffel

Cob type Anglo-Norman, foaled in 1926 in the Manche district. Stands 15-3". Winner of class for half-bred Norman stallions at the 1929 Paris Show.

a great deal of attention; they are magnificent. They are Breton Postiers, Norman Cobs and Percheron Postiers. The average price was 20,000 francs."

The Remount Service

Recently, the decree of September 10, 1926, united the military remount service with the breeding administration. Each service knows that the outlook for production of cavalry mounts is difficult and uncertain. Automobile development has had some effect in this matter by causing decreases in the general production of this type of horse.

The best of our saddle horses are sold at top prices to foreigners and are established on the world market, as pleasure mounts, in the place formerly held so firmly by the coach horse. Our trotters, on account of their real quality, which results from a selection through nearly a century, are enjoying great prosperity. But the same conditions do not apply in the case of our cavalry-type horse, who, although he was one of the factors that brought us victory in the war, now brings, as a three-year-old, the same price as a weanling draft colt of a good type. He is a specialist in the French breeding block. There is only one outlet for him now—the remount service. His purchase price should be calculated not only

with reference to his intrinsic value, but it should also take into account the losses that have preceded him and those that will follow him. To continue the encouragement of breeding cavalry types, we must, therefore, pay the same price for a few animals that we used to pay for a larger number.

His breeding is an agricultural business of long duration. It can not prosper without having some sort of future guaranteed. Five years is figured as a minimum time in which to bring him up to a point where he is fit for service. If there is no market for him when he arrives at proper age, he simply takes his place as part of an excess stock that has been built up little by little, and with difficulty. Annual orders should have a permanent character. Planning should cover a number of years ahead. If this were not the case, many discouraged breeders would not hesitate to get rid of their brood mares at low prices, and for ever. We would thenceforth have a steadily decreasing horse reserve, of mediocre quality, and quite incapable of filling even the reduced peace-time orders. There would then be, in time of war, a prime necessity to buy almost entirely abroad, at high prices, assuming at the same time, freedom of the seas and ability on our part to bargain with foreign countries. Very evidently, our national defense would be gravely compromised.

The breeding administration finds itself face to face with this heavy task when it begins to take over its new responsibilities. It should be guided by the following principles and directions:

To buy up saddle horses of the proper kind:

To do everything possible with a view to favoring and developing saddle horse breeding; that is to say, to establish a long-term program, fixing, for five years at least, the number, type, and age of saddle horses to be bought by the remount service;

To demand:

1. Increased rate of replacement.
2. More purchases of 3 year olds—this to be effected progressively.
3. Increase in budget prices, each new allowance to be applied in purchasing 3 year olds.
4. Maintenance of and, if possible, an increase of the bounty for successful sires—a valuable thing for breeders.

The Anglo-Arab

Note: This is a translation of an extract from an article published by the Anglo-Arab Breeders' Association of Southwest France.—Editor.

THE Anglo-Arab is the order of the day. Preeminent as a Cavalry horse and charger, remarkable for cross-country riding, polo, and horse shows, he is, in addition, a perfect hunting animal for those who know him.

The object of this article is to introduce him to those who are not yet acquainted with him or, who do not appreciate his real worth. We will, therefore, rather hastily touch on his origin, his qualities, and his utility and show a few good examples of his breed.

The Anglo-Arab comes from the region of the Pyrenees. Improved by continued association with noble blood, he is the survivor of the local breed which has borne, three different periods of history, the names Iberian, Aquitanian, Navarrine, Bigourdane, and finally, Tarbaise.

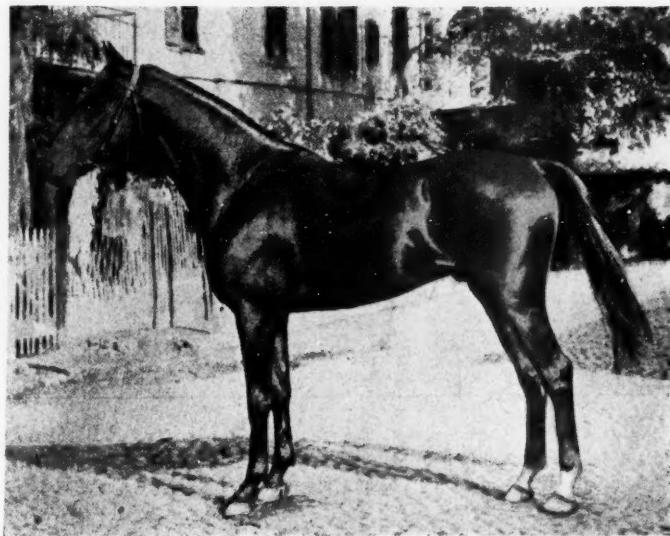
The Iberians, who undoubtedly crossed their horses with oriental animals, knew how to produce famous horses. Julius Caesar, in his "Commentaries," praises the Aquitanian horses. During the course of the invasions by the Barbarians and later, by the Moors, the breed received a strong infusion of blood from Africa. After having made a great reputation for itself as the breed "Navarrine," it was nearly wiped out by the wars of the Revolution and of the Empire. Then Napoleon reorganized the government breeding service (*Administration des Haras*) and created two breeding establishments, one at Tarbes and the other at Gélos. Here were first utilized the services of Andalusian stallions, then later, Syrian. The latter seemed to breed perfectly with the local mares. Since 1830, this breed of the Pyrenees, greatly improved and rejuvenated, has become more or less concentrated in the region of the Tarbes plain, and now is known as the Tarbaise breed. But even before this, it had developed quite extensively, in point of numbers, particularly in the region of the Basses-Pyrenees where, moreover, the same methods of improvements were pursued, following the creation of the government breeding station at Gélos.

At this time the wise use of English thoroughbred stallions had just begun, in its turn, to be felt. This influence put the finishing touches on the present Anglo-Arab. Along with this, the Anglo-Arab's oriental strain maintains in him the necessary calmness of disposition and gives him the desirable amount of bone—this latter in spite of the fact that he eats little.

Compared with the half-bred Anglo-Arab about whom we are writing, his brother, the pure-bred Anglo-Arab, is the direct result of crossing the English thoroughbred with the same Syrian breed that helped to produce the half bred.



Demi-Sire
Pure-bred Anglo-Arab, by *Sire A* out of *Demi-Lune III*.



Baiser
Half-bred Anglo-Arab (50%), by *Kerro* out of *Marguerite*.



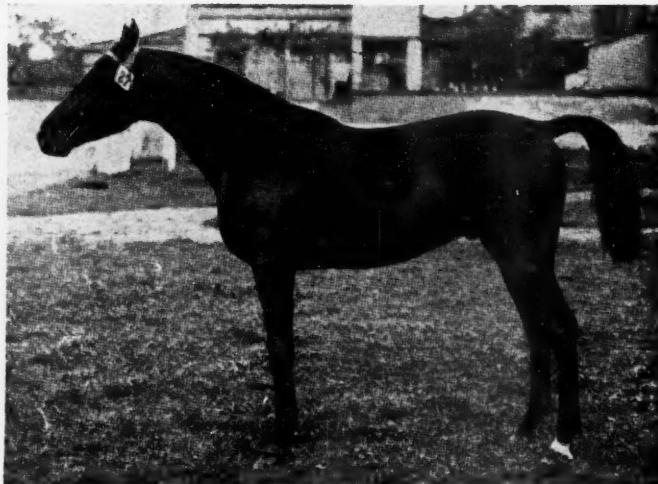
Aioli

Half-bred Anglo-Arab (50%), by *Diamant* out of *Arthemise*.

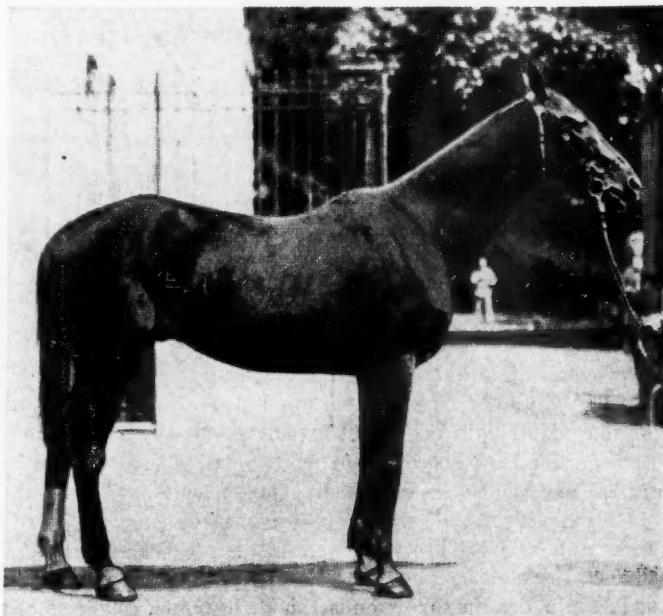
All of these horses resemble one another, whether they be pure-bred Anglo-Arabs or half bred, whether they have half Arab or only a quarter of Arab blood. The latter percentage is the lowest allowed for qualification in races and horse shows. They all have the same remote origin—and the same general qualities. Their breeding has been selective, so as to produce gallopers. Today the Anglo-Arab is a perfect saddle horse, endowed with wonderful qualities. He is particularly suitable for work over varied terrain for long cross-country rides, for jumping; in fact, for any kind of work requiring balance, blood, endurance, sturdiness, and intelligence.

Some people have objected to the Anglo-Arab, saying that he is too light and can not carry weight. The first objection is not at all justified. The government breeding service (*Administration des Haras*) has striven to obtain more compactness and more sturdiness of frame—in a word, to give mass to the horse. And fortunately it has succeeded in this. Regarding his ability to carry weight, the Anglo-Arab has always been able to do this. His ancestor, the Arab, passed on to him the precious gift; and the last war furnishes all the positive proof of this that one may desire.

What, in general, should be our picture of a good Anglo-Arab? He should be of average size (height varying from 15-0" to 15-2" or 3"), be very well put together, and have a good, sloping shoulder; he should be full of ardor, have a noble air and expression, show refinement and fine-



Sans-Fil
Half-bred Anglo-Arab (25%), by *Virel* out of *Isaura*.



Coquimbo
Pure-bred Anglo-Arab, by *Kerlaz* out of *Coquette*.



Coquimbo
Winning high jump (7'-1") at Rome.

ness throughout; the legs should be clean, the main and tail silky, and the muscles hard and well defined.

The Anglo-Arab is the ideal cavalry horse and charger. Most light regiments are mounted with this breed, and the Dragoon regiments are demanding him more and more. The war gave him an undying reputation. Even Anglo-Arabs of quite defective types had to be requisitioned. Without training, care, feed, they came through the hard work and marches of campaign in excellent shape, though compelled to bear back-breaking loads, to carry heavy reservists, and to pull guns. On the other hand, regiments that were furnished horses of heavier and larger type, when submitted to the same hard tests, saw their animals lose flesh. In addition to this, the Anglo-Arab's kind disposition, susceptibility to training, and adaptability make him invaluable for this use.

He is particularly qualified for long rides, at speed, over varied terrain. All sportsmen are reminded of the performance of the horse *Roméo* in Italy, that of *Vulcain* who placed second in the Brussels-Ostend international ride, and that of *Quoya*, foaled in 1916, who won, in the United States in October, 1923, the 300-mile endurance ride in forty-five hours, under a weight of 225 pounds. In outdoor championship competitions of every kind, these horses are always winners.

And where is there to be found a more delightful hack than the



Papillon

Half-bred Anglo-Arab.

This horse, ridden by Lieutenant Bertran de Balande, also represented France in the "Prix des Nations" at the Olympic Games at Amsterdam in 1928.

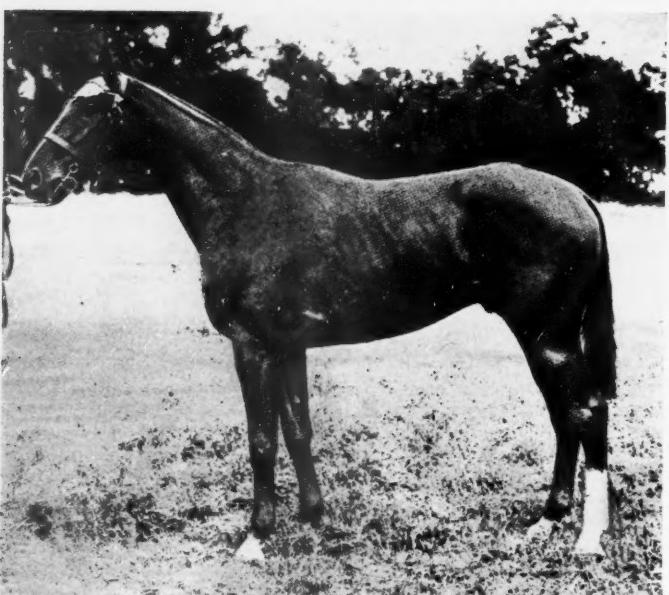
Anglo-Arab? His natural balance and fine disposition permit him to be easily, thoroughly and brilliantly trained in a short time. The results of schooling competitions are ample proof of this.

The Anglo-Arab jumps naturally and with his shoulders. It is quite astonishing to see these horses, of any conformation, perform as well as the most celebrated Irish types. Here, again, natural balance counts. The list of horse show winners speaks for itself. *Double R*, *Valléda*, *Paulin*, *Mandarin*, etc., have put our colors to the fore in all the great international competitions. Later still, at Nice and at Rome, *Coquimbo* and *Papillon*, ridden respectively by Lieutenants de Briolle and Bertran de Balande, covered themselves with glory. Special mention should be made of *Coquimbo*, a former stallion in the government breeding service. He had particularly good success in 1927 at Nice and Rome. At the latter place he won the high jump at 7'-1" and also won the "*Coupe du Roi d'Italie*."

Although they are not found in great numbers in the inter-regional steeplechase events, Anglo-Arabs nevertheless top the winners, as for example: *Le Nabab*, *Rustang*, *Turbulent*, *Canette*, etc., and still later, *Artileur*, *Adulte*, *Princier*, and *Vas-y-donec*. In military cross-country and



Rustang
Half-bred Anglo-Arab, by *Marsh-Prime (TB)* out of *Blondinette*.



Le Nabab
Pure-bred Anglo-Arab, by *L'Oiseau-Lyre (TB)* out of *Naamadar*.



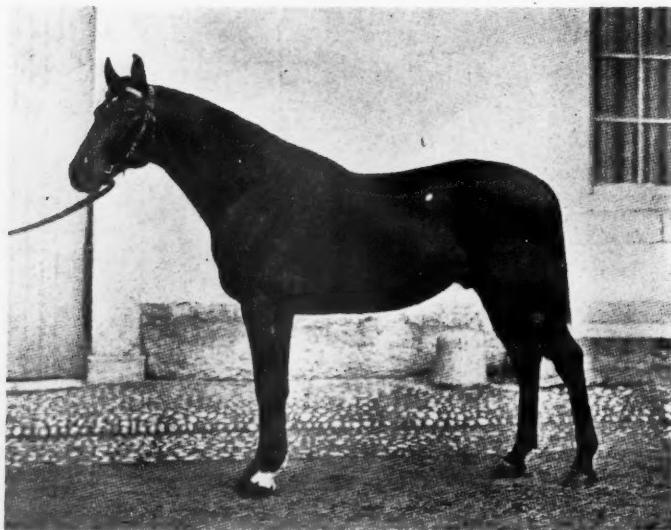
Nibeh

Pure-bred Arab stallion, foaled in the Orient. Stands at Tarbes.

steeplechase events, we find such Anglo-Arabs as *Popaul* beating English thoroughbreds in open classes, and *Me Voici* winning second place in a large field at Auteuil. The events that were run, in January, 1927, at Pau, over particularly difficult courses, showed, in a more pronounced manner than has been seen elsewhere, the cleverness and endurance of Anglo-Arabs. One of them, *Pascal*, a half bred, by *Le Sensible*, foaled in the region of the Gers, won three consecutive events in a brilliant manner.

Finally, in polo, the last of the sports for which they are used, Anglo-Arabs have become so highly thought of on account of their hardiness, speed, and adaptability to the game, that the demand for them is increasing all the time. In 1926, in a tournoi between French and Spanish teams at Biarritz, the Argentine horses of the Spaniards were simply left behind by the French Anglo-Arabs. The manner in which the latter behaved made a great impression on the Spanish King. Certain strings of ponies are building up wonderful records for themselves, among others, that of M. Mirat at Pau.

And now, let us mention one more use for which the Anglo-Arab has earned a well merited reputation. He is preeminent as a breeder. He attracts much attention in other countries where the native breeds are not endowed with his remarkable qualities and ability, and where climatic and breeding conditions are such that the thoroughbred can not well be



Cyrus
Half-bred Anglo-Arab.

used for this purpose. He has, of course, the incomparable blood of the Arab. Added to this, when bred to the proper mares, his size (which is greater than that of the Arab) has the effect of producing sturdiness. His "breedy" colts are therefore well equipped for any use to which a saddle horse may be put. One may see many remarkable specimens at the stallion show which is held at Toulouse, in October, each year. Foreign buyers are coming there more and more. With the assistance offered by the government breeding service, which is responsible for bringing these stallions together, selections are easily made by these buyers.

Polo in the French Army

By CAPTAIN WALLON

Instructor, Department of Horsemanship, The Cavalry School

POLO was not generally played in the French Army before the World War. Those officers who played at all did so unofficially.

This was possible because some of the garrisons, not only in France but in the colonies as well, happened to be near private polo clubs, giving some officers an incentive to play.

Soon after the war the high command considered that polo would furnish officers an added interest in their work, assist in maintaining interest in the horse, and possibly improve horsemanship from a military point of view. The French War Department regulations governing polo, which were published in 1923, announced the following: "Polo assists in training a person to make quick decisions, develops the offensive spirit and requires one to manage his horse skillfully and accurately at the most rapid gaits. This sport demands from a player a highly developed sense of discipline and coordination of effort. It should be considered as the highest development of mounted team work."

Thus polo acquired a foothold in the army. However, it should be understood that the game was not taken up immediately by very many officers.

From 1919 to 1923 in a few regiments, probably three or four, polo was played by the officers and non-commissioned officers. Several War Department circulars or regulations had, at different times, encouraged the playing of this sport, but the response was not very great.

In 1922, the Cavalry School at Saumur was ordered to take the lead in this movement and to form a team. There were then in the school several French officers who were especially interested and trying to play the game. Also there were several foreign officers, among them a few Americans who very gladly assisted in polo instruction and furthered the movement. In 1923, the school team won the inter-regimental championship of the Army and was therefore not permitted to participate further in such tournaments. Then, in 1925, the school team did very well against a fast and experienced Spanish team from Madrid.

Thus Saumur gave a healthy impetus to the game and found itself leading French military polo. How was this accomplished so quickly? It was due particularly to the energy and personal enthusiasm of our Ecuyer en Chef, who developed very rapidly into an excellent player and a very fine team captain. Next, the American officers who were in the school from 1921 to 1926 and helped to instruct us, themselves made up a strong team that gave us valuable experience and competition.



Polo at Saumur (Bray Field)

Finally, and especially, was this success due to the excellence of our system of equitation which, contrary to the then general impression of many foreign officers (that the riding instructors at Saumur did nothing but the haute école between the walls of a riding hall), is a simple and out of doors type. Briefly stated, we were already accustomed to rational and bold riding, which requires utilization of the qualities that are necessary in all mounted sports.

And what is the status of the game now?

Saumur no longer has a team. It furnished the stimulus and then became the retired victor of the inter-regimental tournaments. It could no longer play the regimental teams because it has superior facilities. In addition, the officers had to give up the game because of the pressure of other duties. The school instructors, now too busy with other work, have few opportunities to practice. As for the student officers, their daily work keeps them occupied from morning till night and allows little time for rest. But the school has produced several good players who have, in turn, instructed others. It pointed the way and aroused interest in the game by showing exactly what a military polo team could accomplish.

In 1922 only four cavalry regiments had teams. At present, 1929, all of our cavalry regiments but four have teams. In the artillery, six regiments have teams. The other regiments are prevented from playing because their horses are of the heavy type.

Before the war, there were only six civilian polo clubs in France. Now, many garrison cities have polo fields on which the military teams may play. Many racing and horse-show associations and the owners of prominent pleasure resorts now own polo fields where military and civilian tournaments are held. In some of our garrisons it is difficult to play polo because of lack of suitable terrain. In such cases the teams are compelled to play the indoor game. In France, indoor polo is played only as a last resort—as is true, no doubt, in the United States. It seems

to us that the indoor game offers only a limited opportunity to put into play the valuable elements of the outdoor game—elements that appeal to us, very much, as cavalrymen. Indoor polo tournaments are held during some of the larger horse shows. However, these tournaments do not seem to arouse the same interest that is always attached to outdoor polo.

In the army we have equipped about three hundred players who are now following the sport. Included in this number we find several generals and colonels who, in spite of their age, turned out and learned the game. Many of them have become good players. The above number also includes non-commissioned officers. Our regulations authorize them to play under the following conditions: they may play on teams composed entirely of non-commissioned officers, and in tournaments in which all the teams are so composed; or, they may play as members of officers' teams in the proportion of one non-commissioned officer per team.

To supply these three hundred players with ponies, we have to use the horses that are found in the regiments. Some of the regiments have experienced a great deal of difficulty in mounting their teams because their horses are of a breed that is not suitable for the game. The Anglo-Arabs have proven to be excellent polo material, since they are all fast, handy, and do not require a great deal of training. I believe it is fair to class the Anglo-Arab among the best of horses for polo material. The regimental teams that are supplied with Anglo-Arabs are always winning teams, even though the players are large men. In selecting ponies from our half-bred animals, we have to exercise some care. We find some good ponies in the breed; however, most of them are too heavy or are lacking in handiness. As for thoroughbreds, of which we have not a great many in our regiments, it is usually necessary to set these horses aside for the use of young officers who participate in races.

Summing up, we may say that the results achieved in seven years have been quite remarkable. This is due to the fact that higher military authority has backed up the movement. Besides, the National Polo Association has been of great assistance by inviting our military teams to play with its teams. Many of our officers who have played on mixed teams have, by such contacts, gained valuable experience. Some of these contacts have been with players of international reputation. In this manner we are training players who should soon be capable of playing on a French national team. The National Association has also assisted financially, by actual gifts of money, and by much moral support. It continues to direct our tournaments in liaison with the technical section of the office of the Chief of Cavalry, in the same manner as is done for other sports. This liaison is accomplished by a member of the Association Council, who is in constant touch with the military authorities. M. le Comte Jean Pastré and M. Hubert de Monbrison have so far performed

this function in such a highly satisfactory manner that the whole army certainly owes them a debt of gratitude.

We do not pretend to claim worldwide fame for the performances of our teams. However, we feel sure that the average of our players are capable of putting up a good, fast game, and that perhaps a dozen of them might play, with credit, in international tournament. Some proof of the development of our players may be gained by witnessing the inter-regimental finals that are held each year at Vittel in the Vosges, where four or five teams always put up a very good showing.



The Barb*

FIRST LIEUTENANT LICART, *7th Spahis*

THE Barb is not the Arab horse. Many people seem to be confused on this point. I shall endeavor to clear up this misunderstanding in describing this animal.

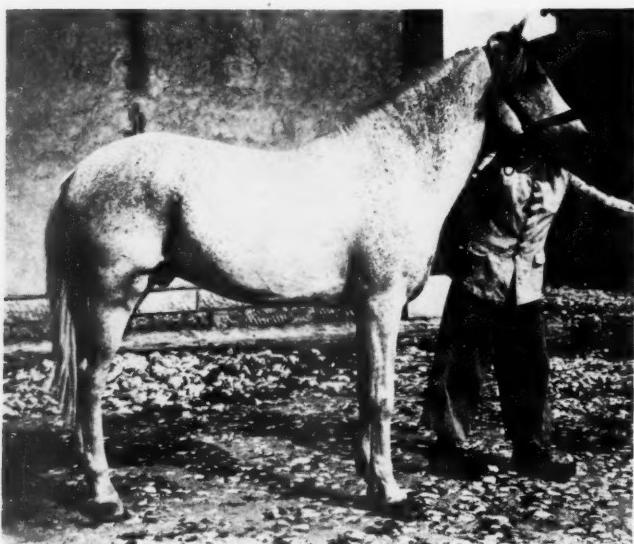
The Barb is raised in northern Africa in an area extending from the ocean westward as far as Egypt, and from the Mediterranean Sea southward to the Desert. "All hippologists unite in recognizing the fact that the Barb is descended from the ancient Numidian horse, who was so celebrated at the time of the Punic Wars and helped so materially to hold in check, in Africa, the Roman armies during all the time of their domination. But they disagree on the subject of his real origin. Some of them think that he probably comes directly from the Arab; others claim that he is a native of northern Africa. Assuming the latter case—that he is not a direct descendent of the original Arab—his oriental appearance and his remarkable qualities would then have to be due to natural influences of climate, soil, and kind of feed; they would have to be inborn, not acquired, and would have to be transmitted in a constant manner in spite of degenerating causes. But the Barb of our day is very much like the Numidian horse."

Unquestionably, the Barb is descended from the ancient Numidian, but I feel sure that he will never be, in our time, what he once was. In all the available sources of information on the subject of Numidia, we find that these people were extraordinary horsemen. After the founding of Carthage, they furnished the Carthaginians and Romans with mercenary troops of excellent quality. If it is granted that the Numidians had a good reputation as horsemen, then we should admit that they must have had good horses. It is apparent that the Numidians and their horses suffered the same experience—a mixing of breeds, a thing which has not completely submerged the ancient type, but has definitely altered it.

In searching for the Barb's origin, it has been necessary to delve into a bit of ancient history.

Numidia, which was probably the same thing as the present Algeria, passed from Roman dominion to that of the Vandals, was later part of the Greek Empire, and then was conquered by the Arabs. Before the

*NOTE: There is now running in the French *Revue de Cavalerie* a series of articles, by Lieutenant Licart, entitled "Le Cheval Barbe et Son Redressement." The following is a translated extract, taken by this officer from his first two installments which have already appeared in the French Journal. It deals with the Barb as he is found, and as he is ridden by the natives, in Northern Africa. The later installments to be published in the French journal will describe how this horse is reclaimed and retrained. The complete series of articles will appear later in book form, as one volume, edited by Berber-Levrault, Paris.—Editor.



The Barb

end of the seventh century, the Mussulman became master of northern Africa. Later, in the eleventh century, the Arabs were no longer satisfied with having Egypt, Tripolitan, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco, and drove the Berberes across the Sahara and Soudan. At this time Numidia ceased having a particular existence, and its history, from then on until the French conquest, was involved with that of the different Mussulman empires which have occupied this part of Africa.

It seems very probable that the Arabs and Turks must have imported their fine horses into this country from Syria and the plains of the Euphrates, and that these animals must have exerted a profound influence on the horse population of the conquered country. At the time of this conquest, the seventh century, we note that "the horse population was extremely small, contrary to the idea that generally prevails. Few of the Arab chiefs had, at that time, more than one horse apiece."

It seems, then, most reasonable to assume that the present Barb is a cross of the Numidian, the Arab and the Syrian horses. According to the stories about the ancient Numidian horse's conformation and hardiness, we find that he seems to have had the same wonderful chest and wiry legs that characterize the Arab.

Apparently, then, the Barb actually dates from the first invasion of Africa by the Arabs—about the year 700 A. D.

In bold lines, let us paint the picture of the Barb. As for color, he is most frequently gray, varying from very light to very dark, but it is



The Arab Barb

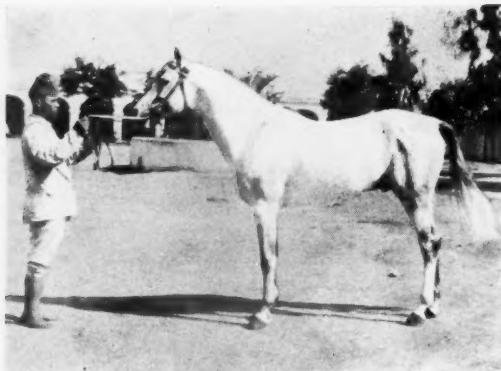
wrong to think that all, or nearly all, Barbs are a light gray, as is often thought. There are also many bays and chestnuts among them.

In general, the Barb's muscles are very well developed, a consequence of his hot blood in a warm country. This gives him a very robust and vigorous appearance. He is very strong for his size. His height varies between 13 hands—3" and 16 hands. The average height is about 14 hands—3".

A close examination reveals, usually, a long head and a convex face line. Those that have more than the ordinary amount of Arab blood show it rather proudly in the face, and seem to inherit the Arab's fine, good-looking head, his large eyes, wide forehead and bold ears.

The Barb's neck is well muscled, often a little thick, is short to average in length, and always carries a long and flowing mane. The withers are thick, rather muscled at the base, but usually well defined. The back is short, well coupled, wide, strong, and often convex. The croup is wide and powerfully developed. The tail, attached low, is long and flowing. The frame of the horse is substantially put together; but it is of a conformation that does not permit the full, free action that is necessary for speed. The forearm is not very long, the hocks are often coarse, and the shoulder is straight. The coarse hock is, however, "more unsightly than noxious; this is a common condition among horses raised in mountainous countries and with those of great strength" as some one has told us. The joints are wide and strong, the canon is long, and the tendons are clean and well detached.

He has been further described as follows: "His bony framework gives him the best kind of a physical set up and his beautiful muscular system develops rapidly. His main fault is his size; but in this breed, as in others, size corresponds with the quantity and quality of feeds.



A Pure Bred Arab

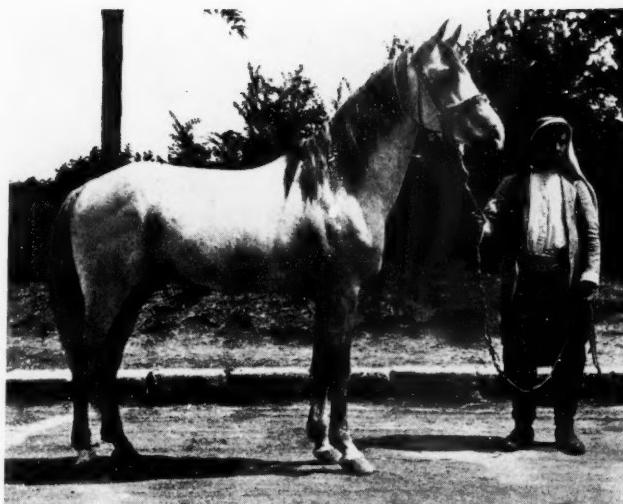
Horses that live in dry and rocky countries like the Nedj are no taller than 14 hands; while in the rich and fertile plains of Mesopotamia, of the Tigris and Euphrates, the valleys of the Bekaha and the Oronte in Eyria, they reach a height of nearly 16 hands."

The Barb is easily distinguished from the Arab in that the former has a more rounded conformation and has not the fine and harmonious proportions of the latter. The Barb's gaits are more restricted than those of the Arab, less rapid and less brilliant, but, on the other hand, the Barb is harder and has more endurance. He gives the impression of sturdiness and power; the Arab, a sense of harmony and grace combined with strength and vigor. The Barb is remarkably balanced on his lean and sinewy legs. The ratio between the forehand and hind quarter is perfect.

Now let us look at the Arab for a moment. His head is admirable in every way; it is proudly set on and shows animation, intelligence and gentleness; the forehead is wide; the large and well-set eyes are clear and full of expression; the small, bold and well-set-on ears are alert and attentive; the lips are thin and the nostrils are well opened and fine. The neck is well muscled—a condition that sometimes makes for an appearance of shortness—and is very well united with the shoulder.

The Arab has a full breast, long and sloping shoulders, and elbows well set out. The forearm is long, and the canon is short, wide and of good substance. The withers are well defined, a bit muscular, and extend well to the rear. The back is short, the loins are flat and well coupled, the croup is powerfully muscled, and the thigh is well shaped. The nicely set on tail is always carried high. The hock is faultless as to form and is usually finer than in other breeds.

Now let us return to the Barb, who also has many very good qualities. He is the quietest and sturdiest of all oriental horses. He is very



Arab Horse of the Hedjaz

hardy, can withstand a great deal of neglect and privation and all kinds of temperature changes. He is seldom out of condition, less subject to injury than other breeds, is rarely sick, and stands up wonderfully under continued hard work. Vallon justly describes him as the best campaign horse in the world. As proof, he cites this animal's experiences of thirty years in Algeria, three years in Crimea and Italy, the campaigns in Morocco, and the operations in Macedonia and Albania (1914-1918). When one considers that, in the early stages of the World War, the horse consumption averaged about 25,000 head per month* it seems as though we should be able to exploit, with advantage, the little known horse supply in northern Africa.

The natural dexterity and handiness of the Barb are truly remarkable. He crosses the most difficult terrain, the worst kind of steep and rocky slopes, with astonishing calmness and sureness of foot. In crossing such terrain in the mountainous regions of northern Africa, the native gives the Barb his head completely. Taught by experience, he has all confidence in the instinct and natural dexterity of his horse, as is indicated by the old Arabic proverb:

"When the road is good, control your horse;
When the road is bad, trust your horse."

Over the steepest kind of rock-strewn trails, the Barb moves along, slowly, calmly, attentively and always comfortably. His sure feet seem

*This was 25,000 per month during the first year and 15,000 per month thereafter.

to cling to the rocks and to support him firmly over the slipperiest flagstones. The first time I rode a Barb over such steep and treacherous trails, I humbly admit that I hugged his mane for dear life as I measured, mentally, the distance to the bottom of the nearby gorges and ravines. Afterwards, I thought to myself with gratitude that no other horse in the world could possibly have gotten himself out of such a fix. Once this confidence in him came to me, I had no further trouble.

The character of the Barb is also interesting. Nearly all of these animals are left entire and, as a result, seem to have more sense than those that have been gelded, thus complying with what seems to be a general rule for all male animals. He understands quickly whatever anyone tries to teach him. I was astonished, from my first contact with him, to find how willing he is to learn and to apply himself. There is no doubt that, being left entire, he is a little less obedient to the aids than is the mare or the gelding, but this difference has been greatly exaggerated.

The Barb is very tractable and easy to ride. As a rule he requires very little disciplining. He is devoid of meanness and becomes attached to his rider, and especially to the man who grooms him if the latter treats him decently. He follows his rider like a faithful dog and comes at the call of the voice. His gentleness and kindness are equaled only by his willingness and self-submission. He is not very sensitive and his forebearance is infinite.

In order to complete the picture of our friend, one should mention his powers. I believe that this animal is too often considered as a sort of hobby horse. He is often thought of as having no real ability and powers, little value, and as being quite uninteresting. This is not so. I can not praise him too highly. It is true that the Barb is not built for speed but, by way of compensation, he is endowed with an extraordinary amount of courage and "staying power". Every cavalryman who has served in Africa has heard of the famous horse races in the Hamyanes region (south of Méchéria). The distances run vary from eighteen to twenty-five miles.

Being quite often a small animal, the Barb might seem to be poorly equipped for jumping. However, as a compensation for his small stature, he is endowed with remarkable energy that actuates a powerful muscular development. I say, without reservation, that very many Barbs have great jumping ability. This ability is little realized and rarely put to advantage. I have been greatly surprised to see these little animals, while frisking about at liberty, jump obstacles of four to four and a half feet in height. Most of these horses certainly are capable of jumping this height. However, if one wishes to make jumpers out of them, a few things should be done first—and these done logically. They need a little special schooling to put them in proper balance, to restore the impulsion

they have lost, to give them confidence in hands that they have probably, in general, learned to fear, and to restore to them some ability to use their heads and necks properly. This last item—use of the “balancer”—seems usually to have been entirely lost. They do not seem to know how, nor do they like, to extend the neck forward. When the above training has been successfully completed then, and only then, should one ask these little animals to jump. A harvest of satisfaction will then be reaped very quickly. One will be astounded at the results attained and the progress made. These powerful and bounding little animals will then vie most successfully with any horses over any course of jumps.

I have seen Barbs, of the ordinary run of the breed, jump obstacles as high as five feet to five feet four inches, and that very handily. I do not say that all Barbs can jump such obstacles. But I do say that, taking size as a measure of comparison, and in proportion, the Barb has greater jumping ability than the majority of French horses found in our regiments; and this, simply on account of the fact that he has more energy and greater muscular development than the other breeds. Very many Barbs of 14 hands—2", once they have received a little training, jump their own height. How many French horses, or any others for that matter, are there with the same ability?

The Horses of North Africa and the Breeding of the Barb

General Daumas, in his very interesting book entitled, “The Horses of the Sahara”, describes the breeding of the Barb as it existed in his time, between 1830 and 1860. That period was one of splendor and prosperity for the Mussulman; one that well justified the word of the Prophet: “Our real wealth lies in a noble and courageous breed of horses”; and it was a period in which the precepts of the Mohammedan religion recommended, to all believers, a love of the horse and every attention to his training “in order to give the horse a body of iron and a soul of fire.”

In those old days the warlike habits of the Arabs were allowed free rein. Their lives were passed in fighting, either in resisting an invader, or in settling the countless quarrels and rivalries that existed among their own tribes. In these struggles, success depended usually on the quality of the horse. The Arab needed fast and sturdy animals with which to ward off the “razzias”, to run to the defense of his herds and flocks, to match the speed of the ravisher, to recapture stolen goods, and even for hunting purposes—the one and only industry of their people. In those days the Arab loved his horse, the real companion of his adventurous life in all its vicissitudes. The horse was cared for, rewarded, loved and well fed because his master often had to call on him, at a moment’s notice, to give his last ounce of effort. The Arab’s life, his honor, that of his family, and his goods, were usually at the mercy of his

horse's legs and lungs. It is thus easy to see why some affection and care were shown.

Perhaps, also, the foregoing words explain the reasons for the extreme care with which the Arab attended to the breeding of his mares, why he suffered sacrifices in order to give his mares the service of the very best stallions. In a letter to General Daumas, Abd-El-Kader says: "The horse is the most beautiful of all animals, but his spirit and disposition must correspond with his physique. Arabs are so thoroughly convinced of this that, if a horse or a mare has given unquestionable proof of having speed and heart, combined with calmness and gentleness, they will make every imaginable sacrifice to breed them." This was undoubtedly true in the days of the Arab's then adventurous existence, but certainly it is not true today.

Nowadays the raising of well-bred horses has lost, with them, its value on account of changes in mode of living, customs and of necessity; and consequently their horse world has become impoverished. The Arab's former adventurous life has now become a wandering, pastoral existence. Jacoulet says: "The warlike habit of the Bedouins has disappeared and with it has gone the horse raising which was its soul and motive power. In turning the Arab into a peaceful farmer, we have killed in him the sacred love of the horse, and we are now helping him to replace that animal by the mule." The Arab and his charger are becoming more and more a myth.

In the time of Abd-El-Kader, most Arabs had two or three horses. And when the now peaceable Arab was a turbulent warrior, many of the caids or other important chiefs kept as many as fifty or more well cared for horses for the use of partisans who had no mounts.

Today, we find an average of one horse per tent in the tribes that still exist in the extreme south. It is now only the rich and a few of the chiefs who can afford good horses. However, breeding still goes on in some of the tribes in which love of the horse, the old warlike customs, and love of hunting have not disappeared. Among these are the Flittas and Hamyanes tribes, who still ride their horses to hunt hares "to hawk" and gazelles.

In my opinion, the following are the causes for the decline of the Barb in numbers and quality: the increased security of the tribes, the destruction of the Arab feudal system, the lack of necessary supply arrangements to tide these people over years of famine, the advantages of mule raising, and the absence of castration—a condition which permits inferior horses to reproduce.

However, the Barb has not disappeared. The Army remount service in northern Africa is operating very effectively in producing and improving the breed.

In the tribes in which horses are still raised, the training of the colt

begins when he is eighteen months old. At this age he is ridden long distances and the Arab even uses him for work. But usually he is ridden only bareback or with a blanket, and generally without a bit or other means of control than a halter and tie rope. Very small children ride these colts thus, at all gaits, controlling them by the voice and the tie rope, meanwhile tapping them on the head, on one side or the other, with a switch, to cause a turn in the desired direction. This method of control is highly esteemed by the Arabs. It has the advantage of not ruining either the horse or rider, and requires no more tact than is inherent in each one.

When the horse is three years old, a saddle is put on him and a bit is put in his mouth. And what a bit!! I will show it to you presently. The change from halter to bridle is made abruptly, with no attempt to prepare the horse for the bit. The snaffle is practically unknown. Thus, at the expense of the colt, the Arab suddenly begins riding him, with this bit, to hunt hares or gazelles, and with no concern for the animal's predicament. Next, the Arab accustoms him to the acrobatics of the "fantasia". It is now time to decide whether or not the horse is of any value. For this purpose, the Arab submits the horse to a very difficult test. He rides him on a long hunt for wild boar or gazelles, being very particular not to spare the poor mount. The Hamyanes tribe use this means to find out, as they say, "what the horse has in his belly." Horse races of 20 to 25 miles distance are organized and run off at a gallop from start to finish. The colts that complete these stiff tests and show proof of having speed, vitality and the right disposition, are justly considered to be good horses. In fact, one may say that the survivors of such tests, no matter whether they may or may not have had the benefit of previous training, are indeed sturdy and well hardened. The others are sold.

At four years old the horse is again put through the same tests, and I emphasize the fact that the rider has no mercy for him. The training of the animal is then finished. From this time on, for the rest of his life, he has to work very hard and to undergo all sorts of privations.

During all this time, what has he been fed? Most of the time the poor animal has been miserable, having been obliged to "rustle" his own feed from the few tufts of stunted grass found on the extremely dry ground near the tent of his master. The latter perhaps gave him a little barley—when he had any to give. M. Genieis, veterinarian, says: "The feeding of these horses varies with the fortune of the master rather than with the size, age and needs of the animals. Among the wealthier Arabs (*les Arabes de "grande tente"*), who are fast disappearing, the colt is caressed by the women and children and is given dates, meal and *kouskous*. Those who are wealthy enough to possess large herds of camels sometimes give milk from the latter to their horses in place of



Arab Going to Market on His Barb

water. But it would be wrong to believe that such solicitude is general; as stated, it is found only with the wealthy. Usually the horse shares all the misery of his master and receives no more care than the latter gives himself. At six years old the horse has reached his prime; from this age to twelve he leads a very hard and most pitiful existence. At the latter age he is usually no longer serviceable as a mount and, then, ordinarily, is put to other work. 'Six years as a saddle horse, six years in the swamp' is what the natives say; but these six years as a saddle horse at the hands of an Arab represent, for a horse, a long and eventful career."

Usually, in Algeria and Morocco, there is no such thing as training for a horse. The natives of the country use the horse for plowing, as a mount (though always at a walk), or as a pack animal. It is not at all uncommon to see two men riding together on the same horse, seated on a large sack filled with straw, and controlling the animal by means of a very crude type of watering bridle or, by means of the worst kind of jaw breaking mule bit, to which further reference will be made.

The Arab's Horse Equipment

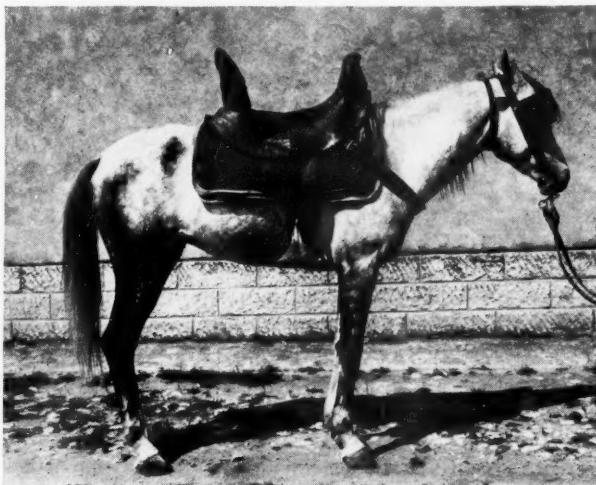
Now that we have become acquainted with the congenial little Barb, let us see what kind of equipment the Arab uses on him—and how he uses it.

The Saddle. The Arab's military saddle is practically the same as his civilian type; and the two are totally different from French and English types. The military saddle consists of two wooden bars joined together at one end by a very high pommel, and at the other end by an equally high cantle. The whole is covered with a kind of parchment. A goat skin then covers this crude tree and completes the thing. The horse's back

is protected from the saddle by several layers of felt padding. A surcingle, which passes under the saddle cover, and a large breast strap hold the saddle in place.

The characteristics of the Arab saddle, from an equestrian point of view, are partially indicated in the following extracts from the Manual for non-commissioned officers in Spahis regiments:

"The stirrup straps are attached very far back in such manner that, if a short stirrup is used (regulation length being 'three times the height of the doubled fist plus three fingers'), the rider's legs must be very much bent at the knee, thus placing the calves and heels in contact with the horse's sides.

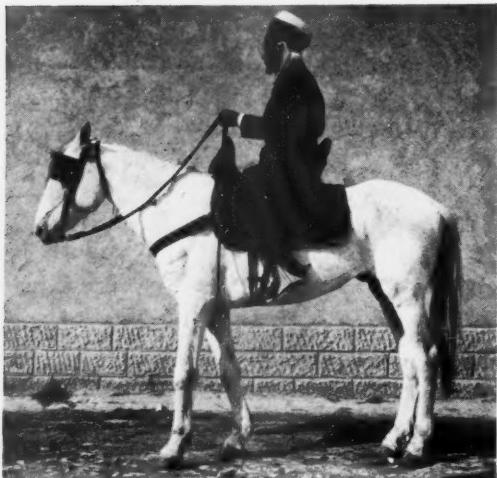


Arab Saddle

"The stirrups are of such shape as to be capable of sustaining the entire weight of the rider. The corners of the stirrups may be used for the same purpose as spurs but this practice should be followed only exceptionally on account of its severity.

"The height of the cantle allows the rider, standing in his stirrups, to rest his buttocks against the cantle and to maintain this position at all gaits."

Bits. In this connection I refer only to the curb bit. The Arab does not use a snaffle. His regulation military bit, the one used in native cavalry regiments stationed outside of France, differs quite essentially from the one used in regiments that are stationed in France. A comparison of the two brings out the following characteristics of the Arab bit:



North African Arab Cavalryman

The branches are short and do not extend above their junction with the mouthpiece, as in the French model.

The bit is attached to the cheek straps of the bridle by means of rings which pass through the junctions of the branches with the mouthpiece.

The post is very pronounced.

The curb is a ring whose diameter is about equal to the width of the mouthpiece. The rear part of the curb ring, widened and flattened out, bears on the under surface of the lower jaw exactly as does a curb chain. The forward half of the ring, rounded and of small diameter, passes through a socket which is soldered to the top of the post. This socket serves as a hinge about which the curb ring turns.

The rings to which the reins are fastened are not attached directly to the branches, but by means of short shanks whose forward ends (ball shaped) play freely in sockets at the lower ends of the branches.

In the Arab bit, just as in the French model, each of the branches acts in the manner of a lever of the second order in which the curb, which passes under the lower jaw, represents the point of support; the "load" or "weight" is represented by the resistance of the bars; and the power is applied at the lower end of the branches. But, in the French bit, the upper and lower portions of the branches correspond with the two arms of the lever, each branch forming, itself, a single lever; while in the Arab bit, each branch constitutes only the lower arm of the lever, the upper arm being formed by the post. Following the principle that the severity of bits is measured by the difference in length of the arms of the

lever, it is believed that this Arab bit is not really as severe as is generally thought. Experiments made with Arab and French bits have shown that the one is about as powerful as the other. But, the length of the arms of the lever of a bit does not entirely determine a bit's severity. Other elements which affect this degree of severity in the Arab bit are: the height of the post, which in this case is $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, as against $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in the French bit; and the action of the flattened curb ring on the outside of the lower jaw, which action causes the edges of the curb to cut the skin.

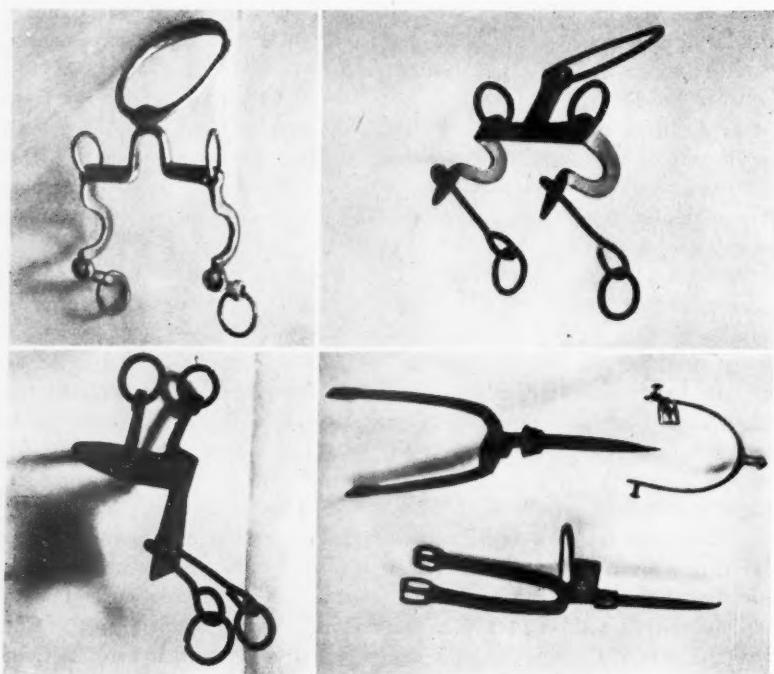
The Arab's civilian bit differs from his military bit as follows: it is more crudely made; its angles are not rounded; its greater part is made up of one stripe of $\frac{1}{8}$ " forged iron, with holes punched for passage of rings; and the curbing, made of $\frac{1}{4}$ " round bar iron, is not flattened at the jaw bearing surface. Considering only the power of the lever of the bit, it should be less severe than the military type; but it is actually more severe because the sharp-edged post is higher (nearly $2\frac{3}{4}$ "), the curb ring is thin, and particularly because of the contact of the thick, rough-edged mouthpiece on the bars.

The mule bit is a still more infernal invention and may be compared to a lever of the first order. It has more effect on the outside skin surface of the lower jaw than on the bars. It is nothing more than a forged iron ring through which the animal's lower jaw is passed. The forward part of the ring, which rests on the bars, is round in cross section; the rear portion, flattened and with sharp edges, comes into play when the bit is put into action. The diameter of the forward part is about three-eighths of an inch; the flattened rear part is about two inches high. That which makes this bit particularly severe is the cutting action of the knifelike edge, which comes into play on the bottom of the lower jaw when traction is applied to the reins. This bit is truly a jaw breaker of the first degree. Although it is ordinarily used on mules, it is sometimes put on horses, especially pack horses. The Arabs say that, with this bit, a horse can not stumble or fall down.

The reader has probably by now correctly decided that these bits have the effect of making the horse recoil, back and rear. With a view to combatting this state of affairs, the Arab arms himself with very powerful means to induce the utmost impulsion in the horse. We shall soon see whether the means chosen are capable of overcoming the harm caused by the bits.

In order to make the horse move forward, the Arab uses the following: his spurs, the corners of his stirrups, the crashing of his spurs against the stirrups, and the whip that is attached to the end of his reins.

The military spurs of the Arab are the same as the regulation French type. The civilian type spur is, however, quite different, as the photograph shows by comparison. It is true that not all civilians use



Top: Left, Arab Military Bit; Right, Arab Civilian Bit
 Bottom: Left, Arab Mule Bit; Right, Civilian and Military Spurs

these spurs, but one sees plenty of them. Fortunately they are being used less and less. They were in common use in former days when the Arab was a real horseman. They are even yet used in certain tribes of the south where often, it appears, the Arab wears only one. And one is enough!

Assuming the Arab's legs to be in the proper "position of the trooper mounted", it is readily seen how dangerous these tools are. It is small wonder that, after executing their "fantasias", the flanks of their horses are ripped and gashed open. Then he may augment spur action by using the corners of his stirrups. This is extremely severe. The crashing of the spurs against the stirrups gives forth a noise that excites the horse far more than can any word of mouth. The fact that the bit and whip are attached to opposite ends of the reins, brings about just one result. When the whip is used, the horse thus receives a blow on the mouth from the severe bit. Naturally, the poor animal is worse than confused. Then follow repetitions of such commands, more and more accentuated, to the accompaniment of a sort of castinet effect of

spur playing on stirrups and of grotesque gestures by the rider. Imagine the effect of all this on the horse's spirit and disposition.

The Arab as a Horsemaster

"Take care of me as your friend and ride me as your enemy"—An old Arab proverb.

"One kind of oriental delusion," writes M. Ginieis, "represents the Arab as an accomplished horsemaster. Now, the Arab, a skillful but violent rider, upsets all our ideas by his way of judging, caring for and using a horse. In choosing a horse, he seems to give more importance to size than to conformation, to consider the length and slenderness of legs as signs of speed, and to attach no importance to the presence of defects. In the beginning, he gives the animal rational care and loads him down with gaudy equipment; then he soon neglects him completely. The equipment, at first shiny and well arranged, soon becomes and then remains dirty, is thrown around on the ground of the stable, becomes broken and torn, and finally is tied together with strings and rusty wires. The horse, poorly sheltered and badly nourished, lives at the mercy of the elements. His master never speaks to him, never caresses him, beats him with his whip, cuts him with his spurs and stirrups, murders his mouth with a barbarous bit, sets him down brutally on his hocks, rides him to death, continues to use him when the horse is lame, wounded, sick or dying—all without consideration, pity or reason. Aside from his actual riding ability, the Arab seems to know absolutely nothing about a horse."

M. Ginieis tells further that the Arab, when judging a horse, looks at the conformation, the coat, and the cowlicks or hair markings, as follows:

In his conformation study, he looks for four long parts, namely neck, forearm, underline (from the cinch rearward to the last rib), and haunch; four short parts, namely, ears, back, pasterns and tail; and four wide parts, namely, forehead, breast, croup and legs.

The Bedouin judges a horse for conformation in a somewhat similar manner; but his twelve points vary from the foregoing in some respects, and are arranged in groups of threes. His horse should have three long parts, that is, a long neck, withers extending well to the rear to insure balance and stability of the saddle, and a long lower lip which, though ugly in appearance, brings good luck to the owner. Length of withers and lower lip in a horse, according to an old Arabic proverb, assist the master greatly in escaping from his enemies. With such conformation, the horse breathes well, has much bottom, speed, and becomes a precious talisman for the whole family. The second group includes a short back, indicating that the horse is sturdy and a good jumper; short pasterns which, he says, indicate power; and short dock of the tail, which indicates that a horse is "short in the joints" and very fast. "Tail short,

tail of a gazelle; tail long, tail of an ox," runs an old proverb. Next, for wide parts, he must have a wide breast which indicates that he is strong; ample girth measurement, showing good lungs and endurance for racing; and a wide and well-muscled croup. Formerly, the Arab horseman demanded such width in this region that he might "hang a water bottle on the point of the hip, but such projections should not be caused simply by the beast's natural thinness." And lastly, there must be three round parts, namely, the flat of the jaw, the belly, and the hoof. Professional riders desired the horse to have a wide but not concave forehead and large, round and well opened eyes. The forehead should be slightly bulging or convex "like the beak of a bird"—never flat, because the "curve of the nose is found again in the back". Canons should be straight as viewed from the side, and thick when viewed from front or rear; tendons should be well detached; and veins should not stand out visibly—they accumulate water from below and cause wind gall.

Dominated by his fierce egotism and superstitious spirit, the Arab gives to certain details, not only an objective significance, but considers that they exercise a direct influence on his own destiny. For example, the coat and hair markings indicate good or bad omens and, in addition, things characteristic of the horse's value. Bay horses with blazed faces have wonderful endurance. The chestnut is a real horse; he is as fast as the wind—flies like a bird; his value increases with the darkness of the shade. A dark chestnut that toes out slightly deserves "bracelets on his ankles like a girl". The gray is the flower of horses; whether well or poorly fed, he always keeps on going at the will of his master. A black horse brings misfortune to his owner's house or embarrasses one who rides him.

Peculiarities of coat, and markings on the head, body and legs have their importance; but the cowlicks are the things that exert the really important influence on the horse's future and particularly on the destiny of the owner. A real horseman will always reject a horse with a bad cowlick. I have seen experienced buyers turn down really good horses just for this reason. One day, at the Arab village of Souassis, I asked a professional buyer how he went about judging a horse. He replied: "Conformation may be likened to a vase; the cowlick may be likened to perfume in the vase. A very beautiful horse marked with a bad cowlick—well, I will never buy him."

According to the Bedouins, cowlicks on the poll indicate degree of speed; those on the flank, the value of the horse; those on the belly, how long the horse will live and the wealth of the owner; those around the ears, much good fortune in store for the owner. Others are portents of impending events, such as death in the family, that some one is to be strangled, that a stray bullet will kill the master, that a thief will steal the family treasures, that one's wife is unfaithful, etc., etc., etc.

Although the Arab neglects his horse, breeders profess a knowledge of the principal defects, ailments and sicknesses. A foundered horse is cured by bleeding. Heaves, which is "laminitis of the lungs", is treated by line firing the breast. Glanders needs no special treatment; one simply mixes egg shells with the horse's feed. If this treatment does not stop the nasal discharge, the case is then considered grave, and strong medicine is necessary. The horse is then made to run at speed until he is winded and covered with sweat. He is next led back to the stable and a nose bag half full of cold, sifted cinders is put on him. Colic is apparently very easily provoked by anger and it is treated by subjecting the animal to fumes made by burning dry manure with ignited gun powder. This is considered very effective. Sand colic is treated by line firing the loins or the belly, and by administering cold butter through the nose.

Equitation in the Tribes

Sallust, in his "Life of Jugurtha", tells us that the Numidians rode their horses without saddle or bridle. Their present-day descendants certainly have made a terrible mistake in permitting this style of riding to pass almost completely into the discard! The words "almost completely" are used for, it is true, one sometimes sees an Arab riding a horse or mule in this fashion, seated well to the rear on the point of the croup. I imagine that the Numidians must have ridden in this same manner. As we know, the horse has two axes of movement, one located in the vicinity of the withers and the other at the point of the croup. We make use of the first one only; but the Arab knows how to utilize the second as well.

As we have remarked, the Arab bit is extremely severe and is used in a brutal manner by the ignorant, indifferent and tactless. In this connection, however, there is one thing worth noting. The Arab of the tribes seldom brings his bit into action. He rides with floating reins and uses the bit only as a powerful brake.

The real Arab, the nomad of Arabia, rides habitually without a bit. M. Louis Mercier tells us, in "The Arab's Bridle", the following: "His simple equipment (felt pad or blanket and a kind of mild haekamore) is, in all probability, that which the Bedouin has always used, that is, since about the fourth century A. D. And the origin of his equitation can be logically deduced; it is the same at that used by all primitive people—the simplest means, instinctively employed. No other previous training is necessary for the horses than to accustom them when young (one year for fillies, a year and a half for horses) to the crude watering bridle and a man's weight. As for the rider, he knows how to ride only at a walk."

The Arab nomads of the Arabian-Syrian desert (the Amarats, Anezes, and Sbabs) control their horses by means of a halter and camel's hair

rope. On the saddle is carried a bit which they use only during combat or the "fantasias". And these horses never carry their heads "in the rider's lap" fearing the hand; their head and neck carriage is perfectly natural at all gaits.

But let's get back to Africa. The Arab of the tribes uses his horse in going to market or a neighboring village. For this purpose he rides at a walk, with long reins, demands nothing of his horse, gives no discomfort to the animal from the bit, and very rarely trots. He gallops when hunting, and there again he rides with floating reins, using the bit only to "put on the brakes."

At the beginning of his career, before his hocks have been murdered, the horse, fearing the terrible bit, usually obeys the simplest indication. However, later, in combat or while hunting, the Arab and his horse have to pass over very rocky and rough terrain and, very often, the rider is obliged to stop his mount very abruptly. Undoubtedly this fact, the necessity of having to stop their horses so quickly, caused the adoption of the severe bit. But we shall see presently that it is a very grave error to think that a severe bit can make up for lack of training; and a still graver error to think that the severer the bit the easier it is to master a horse.

According to M. Mercier, "The north African Arab knows only the formula 'reins without legs, or legs without reins' which he applies, moreover, with great brutality and always by way of surprise. If by chance he does combine the two aids, it is with the idea of making the horse rear or do something else equally bad for the animal's proper balance. The horse, however, submitted to the caprices of the rider's hand, is, in a small measure, capable of returning the torture in kind. He continually jigs, switches his haunches, throws his head up and down, pops out his shoulder, or gazes at the stars, always trying to escape the dreaded bit."

But it is especially in the "fantasias" and other such forms of horse-killing play that the Arab does his worst with the bit. These so-called "fantasias" are types of mounted sports participated in by the Arabs when they wish to celebrate. The horses are pushed into an extended gallop, are stopped abruptly on their haunches, then are let out again like a whirlwind, the riders meanwhile discharging their rifles or throwing them up in the air and catching them. The effect of such proceedings may be easily imagined. M. Benjamin Gastineau, in his book, "France in Africa", gives some pretty good, though perhaps a bit highly colored, pictures of this. The following is an extract:

"Anyone who has not seen greyhounds give chase to a hare, who has not started a deer from his bed, has no idea of the speed of these little Arab horses as they gather themselves and go, with a furious impetuosity. They literally burn the ground. The competitors dash



A "Fantasia"

forward in a group as far as the middle of the field, then two contestants, better mounted than the rest, leave the group. Soon one of the two, at one leap, clears the remaining distance to the trophy; but he scarcely arrives before his horse sinks and rolls on the ground, all bloody. The Arab has sunk his long spurs in his flanks. . . .

"Then the real fantasia commences; they literally cut loose. A few riders leave the main group and gallop madly across the field, whirling their long rifles over their heads, perhaps tossing and catching them; then they stand up in their stirrups, place the butt of the rifle under the arm and fire at a target. All this is executed with remarkable precision and is kept up for five or ten minutes, the riders seeming to be not at all bothered by the furious gait of the horses. And all this is done to the accompaniment of strange, shrill yells. Then other groups of four, eight or ten follow in turn, each group going through the same weird movements. Finally, the tribe as a whole goes through the affair in a body, repeating it several times. Indeed it is a savage fury. And how easily they do it—as if rushing an enemy! Such a performance works them up to a veritable fever pitch. Then they charge off, in the middle of one of these infernal rounds, with shrill, deafening cries. . . ."

Performances similar to these are given on the occasion of special visits, marriages, etc. At such times, just as in the fantasias, the Arabs are not worried about how badly they abuse their horses; what they are looking for, above all, is to be noticed and admired. They excite their horses into a passion with a bang on their mouths. With blood thus drawn, the animals leap and really appear savage. All this is done to the tune of much noise and crashing of spurs; and it is all for the purpose of being noticed, of being regarded as extraordinary riders and to attract the attention of the women who, to urge them on still more, emit guttural "you-yous."

I remarked not very far back that the horse, during the first few times he is ridden, usually obeys a slight indication of the bit. This is

true only so long as nothing is done to destroy the animal's impulsion. It is entirely different a little later, when abuse and the bit's severity have done their work—a consequence not long in coming. Of course, this is not true in those rare cases of horses that have particularly good conformation and are ridden with some tact and consideration. Unfortunately, the latter is not the usual case. Ordinarily, the bit causes the horse to lose, very quickly, all confidence in his rider's hands. The horse, pushed forward without support, feels lost. The only support given him is a sudden bang on the mouth that puts him on his haunches. He quickly loses all impulsion and will not obey the legs.

When this point is reached, the Arab then brings his spurs into play, as previously described. The use of these spurs has just one inevitable result—more frequent and stronger application of the bit to check the result of the spur action. Such a vicious cycle of events does not go on very long before the horse refuses to respond to strong leg action. He has lost his heart and his will to obey—precious qualities that should make any animal respond ordinarily to the slightest demands. He is now, in reality, cold to the legs.

Thus we see the result of using a too severe bit, and of employing too violent means to secure forward movement. The natural effect of the bit is to throw additional weight on the hind quarters. This causes pain; and the more the pain in this region, the more the horse fears the bit, which is the real cause. One can never succeed in restoring a horse's balance by using severe bits, because the horse will run away in an effort to free himself from the pain in his hind quarters, which pain is caused indirectly by the severe bit. We may well admit what some said before Baucher, that "the spur is a razor in the hands of a monkey". Baucher said, "the only effect of the spur is to increase the animal's resistances; unwise use of spurs leads to the gravest consequences."

With this combination, powerful means of inducing forward movement counteracted by the severe bit, the horse is now found to be not only "behind the hands," but also "behind the legs." The condition of the hocks becomes more and more painful; the harm done only gets worse. Baucher says: "When such things happen, there seems to be no remedy; the rider soon becomes disgusted with the impotency of his efforts, throws the responsibility for his own ignorance upon his horse, and calls the animal a jade when, with a little show of discretion and knowledge, he should be able to make his mount willing and comfortable at all gaits."

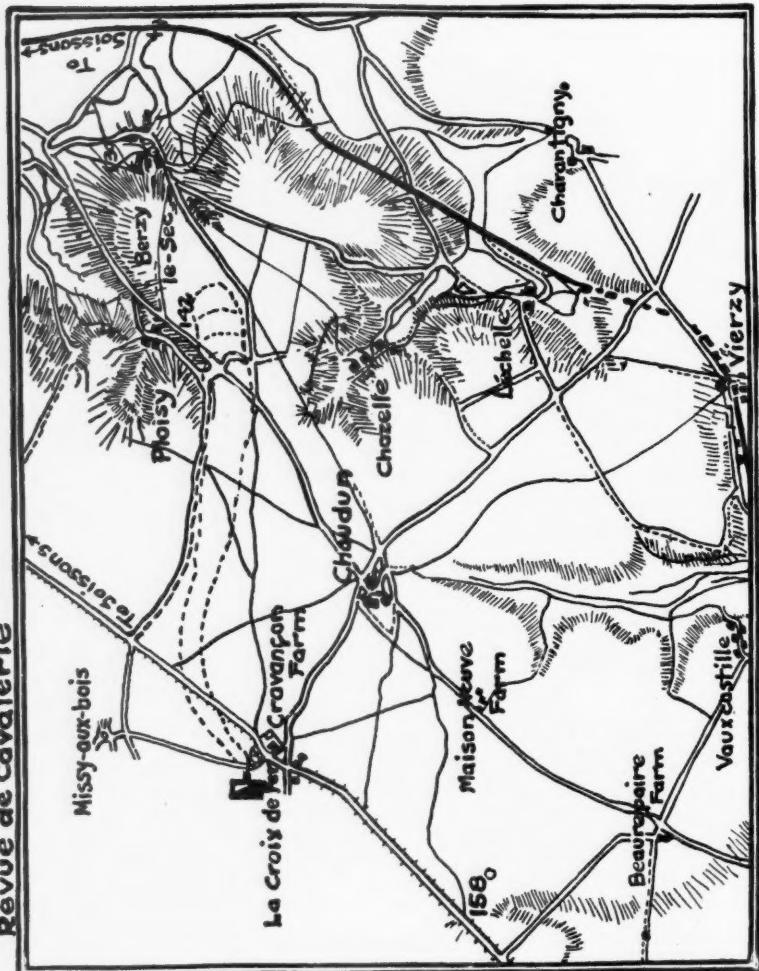
The so-called instinctive equitation employed by the Arabs was perhaps enough in the time of General Daumas, when horses were raised with a little bit of care. Perhaps they were then able to endure better and more cheerfully the hard hands and the wicked spurs. But I doubt it. "This daily contact of the Arab with his horse," writes General Daumas, "is responsible for the docility of all Arab horses." This much-vaunted

docility, this docility of poor beasts that were tortured by infernal tools of their riders, was nothing but dull resignation to heart-breaking brutality. There is no doubt of this in my mind.

The present north African Arabs do not know what equitation is, as we think of it; they have not even the remotest idea of its elementary principles. Certainly, they never assimilated any horse lore from their conquerors. They do not know that, once a horse is mounted, his own natural gaits and balance are materially affected by the rider's weight. This rupture of the horse's natural equilibrium, as we know, necessitates a training to regain a state of balance. "Training a horse," writes Gustave Le Bon, "makes him last longer because it reduces the total of his spent effort." . . . "If the Arabs knew how to place the horse's head, and if they would not abuse him with the bit, one might say that their equitation is perfect."

I find this last statement a bit broad and dependent on the word "if." "If they knew how to place the horse's head! If they would not abuse him with the bit!" Truly, they would have to know something about the purpose for which the bit is intended. And I would add: If they trained their horses; if they all had the hands and tact of good riders they would permit them to handle their bits properly; if they had the least bit of horse-sense; and if they loved horses, then, perhaps, their equitation might appear perfect. These words remind me of a well-known saying: "With plenty of ifs one might put Paris in a bottle."



Revue de Cavalerie

Charge of the 4th Troop, 10th Chasseurs.

The 4th Squadron, 10th Chasseurs, May 30th, 1918*

THE squadron† passed the night south of Chaudun, in the fields around Maison-Neuve farm. It was a cool spring night, a night disturbed by the frightful artillery fire which, for three days, made heaven and earth tremble and bore terror even into Paris. For Captain d'Avout and his officers, it was a night of sleeplessness and waiting. Would they be called on at dawn to add their feeble bit to the pathetic effort with which France was trying to dam up the German onslaught? Since May 27th, the Germans had broken through the front from Anizy-le-Château to Berry-au-Bac. Thirty divisions had snowed under the weak French and English units; they had taken the Chemin des Dames, then Fismes, Crouy, Fère-en-Tardenois, Soissons; they had almost reached the Marne.

The 74th Division, to which the 4th Squadron, 10th Chasseurs, belonged as divisional cavalry, had been relieved on May 17th from the Godat sector and was to have been transported toward the north. However, as soon as it was alerted, it had been thrown into the furnace on the line: Fort-de-Condé—Margival. For three days it had fought under the most terrible conditions—smothered by artillery fire, poorly organized for defense, without trenches, in the middle of a sector with which it was not familiar. On the evening of the 29th, its two infantry regiments could account for no more than a thousand combatants; and as for its three battalions of chasseurs à pied, barely five hundred rifles could be put on the line.

Up to this time, the squadron had not functioned as a unit. But this does not mean that it had been doing nothing. From the moment when the division was thrown into the line, the squadron had continually furnished detachments to the infantry—liaison groups and patrols. Also, Lieutenant Cacciaguerra and his platoon, with all the automatic arms, had been placed at the disposal of the 299th Infantry. No news was received from him for forty-eight hours. The rest of the troop considered him annihilated or taken prisoner. He did not rejoin until the evening of the 29th, after a costly experience. From the 26th on he was able to unsaddle his horses for a few hours only. Men and animals were worn out with fatigue. But what did that matter! Everyone had but one desire, and

*A translation from the May-June number of the French *Revue de Cavalerie*.

†NOTE:—The French Squadron corresponds to our Troop.—Editor.

that was to bring every ounce of effort to bear, to get back into the fight in order to help save the horribly wounded country.

Daylight came, accompanied by increased artillery fire. The men, stiffened by the cold, moved about and stamped their feet while the officers, assembled in a shivering group, regarded sorrowfully the vast plateau covered with splendid grain crops. A light fog was in the air, ascending the ravines. Was all this wealth of fine farm crops to suffer the same tragic fate as had that magnificent region where, for three days, man's fury had wrought fire, disorder and death? In the distance, toward the northeast, wherever one's gaze rested, heavy clouds of smoke arose, twisted, disappeared and reformed. The slaughter continued.

Suddenly a motor-cyclist appeared, bouncing along the badly cut up lane leading to Cravanccon farm, where the division commander, General Lardemelle, had his command post for the time being. Everybody in the squadron stood motionless, pricked up their ears and stopped breathing. Yes, it was an order. Captain d'Avout read the crumpled message in a low voice: "Upon receipt of this order, your squadron will move to Hill 158 (three kilometers south of Cravanccon farm), on the Villers-Cotterets road, and will await new instructions there."

That was all. The squadron mounted up and, at a walk, reached the prescribed place where it dismounted. The waiting commenced again. On the road, the dull and monotonous to-and-fro movement of messengers, wounded men and caissons continued—the tragic topsy-turvy of battle—accompanied by the rolling of guns. And suddenly, about six o'clock, an automobile from division headquarters appeared. It stopped at the head of the squadron and Captain Fleury, of the division staff, got out and proceeded rapidly toward Captain d'Avout, who came forward to meet him. On seeing the newcomer a bit pale in the face, no one doubted that something was about to happen. But where, and how? It was just the torturing mystery of battle. The two officers shook hands. In a rather hollow tone the staff officer said:

"The General has sent me to explain the situation and give you his orders. The 299th Infantry has just received a serious attack on the ridge south of Berzy-le-Sec. It had to fall back with enormous losses. The enemy is about to launch a new attack. The 299th must be disengaged at once and be permitted to reorganize and dig in a bit. The General directs that your squadron make a mounted attack against the enemy right flank and drive him into the ravine." After a moment's hesitation, he added two words that fell like the blow of an axe—"At once."

Captain d'Avout tried in vain to get more definite information regarding the enemy position and that of his own infantry. How was it to be done? In the chaos that had followed on the heels of this hopeless fight, the situation was changing every minute. An hour ago the 299th had disposed itself so as to bar access to the plateau but the Germans,

during the night, had brought up a fresh division which, after a short and violent artillery preparation, seized the heights. The 299th was obliged to give ground with great losses. For the moment it seemed that the line was somewhere between Ploisy and the head of the Chazelle ravine. It was impossible to determine it more exactly. Captain d'Avout did not insist. He simply remarked: "All right, we'll do our best."

The Captain was a rather substantial type of officer, of good judgment and cool disposition. He had commanded a squadron for five years. His four years of the war had given him the faculty of sizing up his task with a cool head. And now he was supposed, with what means he had, to make a mounted attack against victorious infantry—a thing reputed to be perfect folly. But it was not to be discussed, it was to be executed, the historic role of the cavalryman. Essling, Waterloo, Reichshoffen—a thousand examples perpetuated the wonderful traditions of the arm.

He returned slowly to his group of platoon commanders and said in a low voice: "We are going to charge."

Charge! Only those who have had war experience and that, mounted, can grasp the significance of that word in its senses of exaltation and horror. This was no longer simply a question of one patrol meeting another one and throwing itself at its adversary with drawn sabre or lance, as many cavalrymen did with enthusiasm in 1914; it was now a matter of breaking from cover, with troops deployed, throwing one's self at a desperate gallop on an invisible line where thousands of rifles, machine-guns and cannon were ready to cut down without mercy, everything that appeared in sight. It was to be a charge, but a hopeless one, a sacrifice to save comrades who were at the end of their rope. So be it!

The four platoon commanders stiffened and, without a word, exchanged glances that seemed to say: "We are ready." There were present the senior Lieutenant Richert, an old officer who was commissioned from the ranks, a model of bravery and devotion; Lieutenant Cacciaguerra who, two evenings before, had accomplished prodigious results in helping the infantry; Letellier de Brothonne, and Sergeant Jaspard. The captain knew that he could count on them. And likewise he knew that he could depend on his men, half of whom were reservists, recruited from Paris; they had always behaved well under fire. There were a few "squealers," but they were always under the control of their platoon commanders and always came through in a pinch.

The command to mount was given and the squadron moved out in column of fours on the road. Captain d'Avout climbed up on a small embankment and inspected his men for the last time. Not a word was spoken, but everyone knew that something extraordinary was going to be demanded of them. At this time the atmosphere over the battlefield seemed charged with imperceptible waves of something that exercised a peculiar influence on nerves that were already strained. The men of

this squadron experienced this same thing. Grave, earnest, they seemed to try, by their expressions of eyes and faces, to convey to their officers the words: "We are yours, we will go to the very limit with you."

And now, forward! The squadron moved along the road at a fast trot to Cravancon farm, passed beyond it a kilometer, and went straight across a field towards the right. It had arrived in the midst of the combat zone. The captain put the squadron in line of platoon columns. At this point it was necessary to locate the line held by the 299th Infantry in order to try to clear out the place in front of that regiment. Luckily, the slight rolling of the terrain and the tall, standing rye concealed the march of the squadron. And, strange to say, in this particular little corner of the battlefield, a deadly silence took the place of the former tumult. Not a bit of artillery fire was heard, only an occasional rifle shot here and there. It seemed as though the thousands of men who were assembled for massacre in this particular corner of France were straining their ears, trying to catch the noise made by the squadron as it passed through the bending grain with, occasionally, a rattle of steel, a clatter of arms or of hoofs. But, actually; there was nothing there to be deceived about. On the one side were the attackers who were sifting forward, grouping themselves for a fresh blow; and on the other side were the used-up French troops, hugging the ground, awaiting the attack.

Captain d'Avout galloped forward to his little advance guard of one squad which, a hundred meters ahead, was covering the march. He stopped for an instant, standing in his stirrups, and tried to see something—to take in the situation. Useless. There was nothing to be seen, only an immense field undulating and green and, a little farther on, towards Berzy, a little patch of woods that crowned the ravine; and still farther on, towards the northeast, black clouds of smoke were rising—farms or villages that were burning.

Charge? . . . Where? . . . What?

Suddenly a mounted soldier appeared at a gallop, waving his arms wildly. It was an artillery non-commissioned officer. He stopped his horse abruptly and roughly, "Look out, Captain! You are right in the field of fire of the artillery of the Moroccan Division! The Major sent me to tell you that if you continue in that direction, he will not be responsible for anything that may happen when he opens fire!"

Good! The Moroccan Division had probably been sent in to bolster up the left of the 74th. Therefore, the squadron was too far to the north. The Captain veered to the right.

Here, hidden in the grain, was a little group from the 7th Moroccan Infantry. The sergeant, when questioned, seemed to have no information whatever. Oh! An officer! It was a lieutenant from the same regiment whose platoon was hidden along a fold in the ground. "The 299th? I haven't seen anything of it. We have just come into the line.

I understand the enemy is over there, in the direction of Berzy; but since we have been here everything has been quiet. Look a little farther toward the right, Captain, and you will find the company commander. Perhaps he ought . . ." But the Captain was on his way.

It was impossible to continue the march in this blind fashion. Captain d'Avout halted the squadron in a slight depression of the plateau, where it was concealed from enemy view. He turned the troop over to Richert, the senior lieutenant. Every one was to remain mounted, ready for anything, and at the first signal, forward! Then he moved off at a fast trot, followed only by his first sergeant.

Other Moroccan infantrymen became visible, crouched in little groups in the depressions of the ground. Their captain stood up. "Yes, the 299th is over there, some distance to our right. An hour ago they suffered a terrible attack. Heavy losses. You are going in the right direction. You will find elements of that regiment a few hundred meters from here."

Captain d'Avout moved off at a gallop. He was fast losing patience. How the minutes were trickling by since he received the division commander's order to charge—an order that was supposed to be executed immediately!

There, finally, some familiar faces! In the nearest hollow of the Chazelle ravine, some machine guns were "putt-putt-putting." Right nearby, the aid station of the 299th was installed, and there was the surgeon, Major Ayrilles, a friend.

"Doctor! The Colonel? Quick! Where is the Colonel?" Then just a quick hand shake. "The Colonel? You'll find him somewhere along the outpost line. Wait. Dismount. I'll have some one take you to him."

At one jump the Captain was on the ground and was immediately jogging along through the rye behind the liaison agent. Huddled in little groups, the infantrymen of the 299th, with faces that were grimy, unshaven and wan, and with their uniforms in rags, hugged the ground. These men appeared to be absolutely used up, to have demanded from their muscles, hearts and minds all that a human being could possibly stand. They had undergone for several days and nights, without sleep, the worst kinds of physical and mental torture. Here and there a scout observed raised his head and turned his reddened eyes toward the east, from which direction the attack might break forth at any moment.

At last! There was Colonel Vidal, and his headquarters detachment. His face bore all the traces of the horrible days through which he had passed, but it showed also, as always, the energy, calmness, and steadfastness that d'Avout was well used to seeing. He did not betray the anguish that certainly was torturing him, because he knew only too well what the next few minutes had in store for him and for the few

hundred men left in his command. Colonel Vidal was surprised to see the commanding officer of the divisional cavalry in such a place, but his reception was full of cordiality. He stepped forward and stuck out his hand with a most agreeable smile.

"My friend, what in the devil has brought you here? This is hardly the place for cavalrymen."

Captain d'Avout, in a few quick words, explained what he had been ordered to do and requested more definite information on the situation. With difficulty, Colonel Vidal kept his face from showing his feelings. He immediately led the captain up on a little knoll from which could be seen the whole stretch of the plateau.

"We were attacked at about four o'clock this morning," he said. "There are in front of me detachments of the enemy that are deployed on both sides of that lone tree which you see there, a few hundred meters away. But I know that more German troops have arrived at Berzy and are assembling all along the crest. The attack is going to be resumed, and then——."

A toss of his head indicated all the bitterness that was sealed up in his mind, then he continued in a very low voice:

"Just think! My men have fought incessantly since the 27th, outnumbered ten to one. Not a minute of rest—and no rations. I have lost two-thirds of my effectives. If we fall back Chaudun will be lost and the Villers-Cotterets forest road open——"

But he straightened up. Since the General had sent the troop to help him out, it had to be a case of attempting the impossible to reestablish things. Charge the flank of the German line? Impossible even to dream of that. Such action would mean rushing straight into the field of fire of the neighboring artillery, which could, at any moment, render the greatest assistance. There was only one thing to do—make a frontal attack—and that under the worst possible conditions! But what was the difference. There still remained one chance of salvation. It would be necessary to exploit the affair, no matter what the cost might be.

The Colonel approved d'Avout's plan and promised to support him, saying: "You have nothing to fear on your right flank; the machine-gun fire of the 299th will cover the slopes of the Chazelle ravine. I give you my word as Colonel of this regiment that, as soon as your cavalrymen depart from my line, every man in my outfit will be on his way with the bayonet and will follow you. It makes no difference how tired my Savoyards are, I trust them as I do myself. They will not let you go into that trap alone."

They shook hands with a real grip, as if sealing some sort of pact, and the Captain returned to his horse. He directed his first sergeant to go at a gallop and find the squadron, to tell Lieutenant Richert to

bring it up rapidly in line of platoons, echeloned to the right, with fifty meters distance and interval between platoons. As each platoon arrived it would be thrown into the attack. The first sergeant left at an extended gallop.

During this short breathing space the squadron had not moved. This halt had been the critical moment, the moment of waiting before the attack, when nerves nearly snapped and minds were tortured and, in some cases, faint hearts grew fainter. The officers had not opened their mouths. They looked their men over, observed their expressions and wondered whether any of them would drop out on some pretext or other. Would the squadron mount up again soon? No one had the slightest idea.

A group of enemy planes passed over at low altitude, observed the formation of the squadron and turned loose on it a poorly directed machine gun fire. The men crouched and contented themselves with cursing through their teeth.

At last, there was the first sergeant! Something was in the air, anyway. Every man's spirits rose. No holding back now—no regrets—just a great desire for action took hold of each one.

The squadron, now in the prescribed formation, and guided by the first sergeant, trotted toward the little patch of woods where the Captain was waiting. On the way, several horses tripped over telephone wires that had been stretched by the artillery. These had to be disentangled, a few men had to be left behind. A rotten start, this! But, with an unusual display of energy, these men mounted up again and regained their places. The Captain, with saber already drawn, stopped the squadron for a brief word.

"Pack animals, and the men not armed with the sabre, fall out."

This was quickly executed. However, in Brothonne's platoon, the hospital corps man, who was unarmed, refused to remain behind:

"Sir, Lieutenant, please let me go along with the rest of the squadron." And Brothonne shut his eyes.

By now, the squadron was reduced to eighty men. What was to be expected of a handful like this, thrown against victorious advancing infantry? But that was not the question now.

"Draw! Sabre!"

The eighty blades flashed out like so much lightning. Eighty pairs of lungs breathed rapidly. God go with you! as the sailors say.

"Richert, as foragers at two meters! On that German infantry! Direction of attack, to the right of that lone tree in front of you! Gallop!"

Lieutenant Richert saluted the Colonel and the staff of the 299th. The infantrymen, pale with emotion, returned his salutes. It seemed to them that this charge was going to be a race to death, and it was all for them, to save them, that these braves were going to attempt the impossible.

The platoon deployed as on manoeuvres, crossed the line of the 299th, whose men were all standing up now, following with horrified eyes the heroic gallop. They were gone!

Immediately the German machine guns opened up. Luckily, they were firing low, mowing down the rye. Only two horses fell. It was indeed a charge! Then the German artillery awoke. Shrapnel fire, sweeping, cracked and snapped in the air.

"Cacciaguerra! Move out!"

The second platoon dashed forward, then the third. Captain d'Avout took part in front of the last platoon, that of Sergeant Jaspard.

"Follow me!"

In moving out, d'Avout lowered his sabre before Colonel Vidal, as the others had done. The Colonel called out to him in a strained voice: "In the name of the 299th, I thank you. Cavalrymen, we are following you!"

The charge swept across the plateau at an extended gallop. Crouched over the necks of their horses, the chasseurs repeated the piercing yell of their officers: "Charge! Charge!"

Machine guns were firing from every direction, those of the German front line, and those of the 299th, which, from the right, were supporting the attack. A few more horses and men fell. Behind the cavalrymen, Colonel Vidal had gotten the men of his regiment in motion. They were following up with the bayonet. The Colonel's command, "Forward! Forward!" was plainly heard.

The Germans had no time in which to realize what was happening. Surprised by the suddenness of the attack, and having been unable to make any estimate as to the number of the attackers, the German officers had no chance to give a single order. The Chasseurs swept over the first line and met no resistance. The German infantry were stretched out on the ground or squatting under their packs. The squadron passed over them like so much water.

Now its course was in the direction of the steep banks of the ravine through which ran the Vierzy-Soissons railroad. It had swept the plateau, in an echeloned line, on a front of 300 meters. Up to this time, losses were slight. From his post with the rear platoon which he had led, the captain had seen, at the most, about a dozen horses go down in spite of the intense machine-gun fire and the shrapnel barrage turned loose by the German artillery. But what would happen when the platoons reached the second line, that invisible line which should have had time to take in the situation?

The Chasseurs, intoxicated by the charge, were thinking little about that. They had only one thought—to reach the enemy and sabre him. Suddenly, in front of the first platoon, right near the edge of the ravine, a platoon of German infantry arose from the rye. An officer gave the

command to fire. Rifles cracked, bullets whistled. Lieutenant Richert's horse went down. An anxious moment! The platoon wavered for a second, but the thing was over in an instant. Richert got up immediately and yelled: "Forward! Forward!" And the platoon passed on, continuing the charge, while its platoon commander mounted up, his horse having regained his feet, slightly wounded.

Then a strange thing happened. From all parts of the rim of the ravine, German soldiers appeared—not for the purpose of firing—they were in flight. Some of them plunged headlong down the ravine, rifles slung over their shoulders; others threw away their helmets and rifles and were running as fast as their legs could carry them. But it was impossible to follow them down the pitch to the railroad.

At the command of Captain d'Avout, the squadron rallied facing north and continued the gallop in that direction. On this part of the plateau there were still a few sections of Germans who prolonged the line over which the squadron had just passed. Frightened by the sudden arrival of the squadron in their rear, and by the sight of the Moroccan infantry that had advanced to support the attack of the 299th, these men threw down their arms and held up their hands. The Moroccans had only to gather them in.

In a few minutes the charge had covered a distance of two kilometers. It had swept the plateau first from west to east, then from south to north. In their turn, the faithful infantrymen of the 299th had pushed forward with the bayonet. Nothing remained but to send to the rear the men from the 7th Grenadiers over whom the charge had passed. They had surrendered with absolutely no signs of resistance. There were now no more armed Germans remaining on the plateau. The 299th occupied the slopes of the ravine. It had retaken the position from which it had been driven early in the morning. The enemy had done his bit for the day.

D'Avout's squadron returned to the little woods from which it had launched the charge. Noses were counted. Forty horses and their riders were missing, and a dozen horses wounded. It was a gloomy moment. How many of those absentees would never come back? No time should be lost in finding out. One by one these absentees rejoined the squadron, several of them carrying on their shoulders the equipment of their dead horses—proof of the admirable morale in this fine squadron. One man was wounded; not one was killed.

* * *

After such an example as this, how can it be said that cavalry will never charge infantry? Without doubt, such cases as this will be rare. The commander must seize the precise moment when such intervention is necessary or possible. The enemy must be totally surprised. Such a

charge must be pushed home vigorously and without hesitation; the troops must have a high morale; and the commander must have a sure eye and plenty of backbone.

Above all, the effect produced on the enemy should be not unlike a thunderbolt. Such a result seems to have been obtained by d'Avout's squadron in dropping suddenly on this victorious enemy infantry. The German communiqué that appeared two days later mentioned "some charges made by the French cavalry on the Chaudun plateau." This French cavalry was composed of eighty Chasseurs! And they were real ones!

In a very few minutes they not only routed infantry that had been advancing successfully for three days, but also, simply by their attitude, they made several reserve companies turn tail.

Never has there been a charge executed under such dangerous conditions, more fruitful in results, and made with so few losses. It will always remain a monument of eternal honor to the Captain who led it and to the officers, non-commissioned officers and privates who executed it.



TOPICS OF THE DAY

APPRECIATION

It is with a deep feeling of appreciation that THE CAVALRY JOURNAL wishes to express its thanks to the authors of the excellent articles on French Cavalry subjects published in this issue. At a considerable expenditure of time and effort they have presented for readers of The JOURNAL matters of great mutual interest to members of the two Cavalry services. To General Brecard and General La Fonte especial thanks are due for their interest and assistance to Major R. W. Strong, Cavalry, who undertook a heavy task in arranging and translating the material.

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European Tour of the Army Horse Show Team, 1929

By CAPTAIN W. B. BRADFORD, *Cavalry*

DURING the closing days of last winter, invitations were received in Washington from Poland, Germany and Ireland for the visit of an American Equestrian team, to participate in international contests to be held in those countries during the summer. A board of General Officers convened by the Chief of Staff selected Major Harry D. Chamberlin, 9th Cavalry, as team captain; Captain W. B. Bradford, 9th Cavalry; Lieutenant Earl F. Thomson, 9th Cavalry; and Lieutenant E. Y. Argo, Field Artillery, were chosen as team members.

Training

Lieutenant Argo was ordered to Fort Riley and joined the team, which was already assembled at that point. The remaining weeks of winter were devoted to conditioning horses. As much attention as possible was devoted to schooling and indoor jumping. The winter was unusually severe, and it was almost the first of April before outdoor jumping could be begun. By this time, the various types of ditch, bank and water jumps that were expected to be encountered had been constructed on the Riley reservation, and training over these began as soon as the weather permitted. On April 15th, after less than two weeks of this work, the team shipped to Brooklyn to take part in the Brooklyn Horse Show. On May 1st, horses were embarked on the S. S. Dresden, and sailed on May 2nd. The team consisted of the officers previously mentioned, Corporal Charles R. King, Privates 1st Class George Blanks and Charles Boatner, and Private Robert Hays, all of the 9th Cavalry.

The horses were *Dick Waring* and *Tan Bark*, ridden by Major Chamberlin, *Buckaroo*, *Proctor* and *Jack Snipe*, ridden by Captain Bradford, *Garcon* and *Huron Girl* ridden by Lieutenant Thomson and *Miss America* and *Saint Paul*, ridden by Lieutenant Argo. These last two horses were at times ridden by Lieutenant Thomson, as Argo was injured on two different occasions and unable to ride.

The Posen Show

After fifteen days of land and sea travel, Posen, on the western frontier of Poland, was reached. Two days later, competitions began. Seven nations were represented: Poland, Italy, Hungary, Roumania, Czechoslovakia, certain German individuals, and America. This was a difficult experience for our horses, as it was their introduction to conditions existing in the Continent shows. It was excellent training for both horses and riders, and though the team suffered many falls and other mishaps resulting from the strangeness of obstacles and conditions, results were nevertheless satisfactory and American horses proved their courage and ability.

Outstanding performances were first made in the *Epreuve de Puissance*. With only three horses entered, all went well and were well placed in the ribbons in a field of more than ninety. Here, as well as subsequently, was demonstrated that our greatest chance of success was in those classes in which the obstacles were greatest and most difficult. The jumping ability of the best American horses was certainly above the average of those with which they were competing.

The second noteworthy performance was in a class for teams of three. The American team, consisting of *Dick Waring*, *Huron Girl* and *Buckaroo*, was first.

Warsaw

Warsaw began very promptly after the end of the Posen show. This was an older and better established *Concours*. The arena was as large or larger than a full sized polo field, and was made very beautiful by the several large trees that grew within it, and by the great forest by which it was surrounded. The footing was excellent, consisting of a mixture of turf and sandy loam. The competing nations were France, Poland, Italy, Roumania, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and America. Entries averaged about 120 to a class, one class a day.

Our horses and riders were more familiar with the obstacles and conditions here, and performances were satisfactory and smooth. The team was handicapped by the temporary loss of *Dick Waring*, *Proctor* and *Buckaroo*, all of whom were lame during the greater part of the show, from injuries received from falls or other accidents. Here again the American horses excelled in the *Epreuve de Puissance*. *Jack Snipe* and *Dick Waring* both tied for first place. After several jump-offs, during which the obstacles were spread and raised to 1 meter 80 (about six

feet), Roumania won, America was second with *Jack Snipe*, and *Dick Waring* placed.

In the team class, which was conducted in a pouring rain, we were not so fortunate. *Dick Waring* went lame at the last moment and performed poorly; *Jack Snipe* fell (there were fourteen falls among twenty-four riders); *Huron Girl* performed well; *Tan Bark* was penalized on a technieality and performed fairly. It was America's worst day of the week, and though not last, the team was nevertheless not included in the ribbons.

Huron Girl performed exceptionally well during the week, and on more than one occasion was tied with five or six other horses for first place. In the jump-offs, she was unable to capture the blue, but was usually well up in the ribbons, close on the heels of the winner.

Our poor performance in the team class was later compensated for to a certain degree by *Proctor* in the King of Roumania's Cup, for the best individual of any nation. Over the special course, which had to be jumped three times, *Proctor* won a clear cut victory and carried away the cup. Second to *Proctor* was the splendid Roumanian mare that had previously won the *Epreuve de Puissance* both at Posen and Warsaw. A total of 25 ribbons were won by the team in Poland.

Cologne

In Cologne, the *concours* began immediately after Warsaw. There were representatives from Holland, Sweden, Poland, Austria, Italy, Germany and America, though in most instances these representatives were riding as individuals, and not as teams. The average number of entries was 120 in each class. As was the case in all the *concours* attended, the entries were so numerous, and the courses so long that only one class per day was held.

The American horses seemed to reach their peak at this time. In the classes entered, the *Barrierenspringen Preis* was won by *Buckaroo*, with *Dick Waring* second. This class required four jump-offs, and was decided on a purely performance basis. In the final trial, the two largest jumps were at a height of six feet two. Both *Dick* and *Buck* had clean performances, the only two over this last course. In four other classes, our horses were second, beaten always by time score only, as ties in Germany were usually decided by giving the class to the horse with the fastest time. In the sixth class America was fourth.

Miss America performed especially well in Cologne. She was usually tied for first place, and nearly always in the ribbons. One of the greatest classes of the show was the *Grosser Preis von Köln*, in which were more than 120 entries. The blue was finally won by a German horse, ridden by that good horseman and sportsman, Lieutenant von Barnekow, a member of last year's German team in New York. This was a simple

performance class. *Miss America* forced the jump-off four times before finally admitting defeat.

Hamburg

Hamburg followed close on the heels of Cologne. Many of the Cologne entries were present, and in the four international classes the competition was very keen. Here *Miss America* and *Huron Girl* performed especially well. *Dick Waring* was lame and our other horses were a little stale. They all performed creditably and were well represented in the ribbons, but lacked much of the brilliancy that had been shown at Cologne. A feature of the Hamburg show was the Jumping Derby. In the ten years during which this Derby has been held, there has never



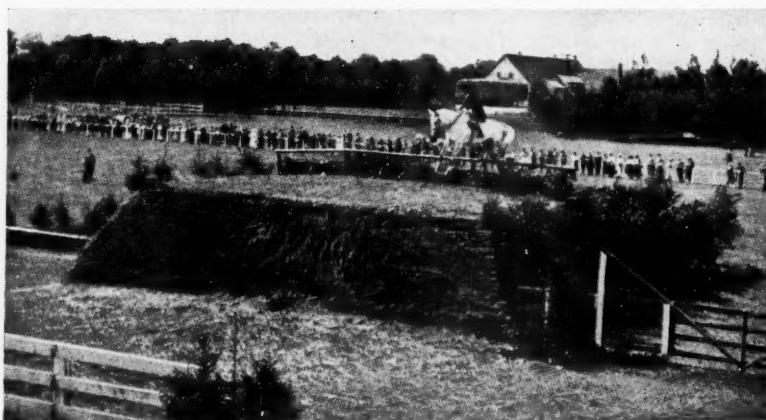
Dick Waring in Barrierenspringen Prix at Cologne

been a performance without one or more knockdowns. This year was no exception to the rule. The winning horse had a score of seven, and of the ninety entries, there were forty who fell.

For the time being, this was the end of a strenuous campaign. Horses and men were shipped to Hanover and a period of rest was begun, followed later by gradual reconditioning. During this time the officers were for a short while the guests of the German Army on a very delightful and interesting tour through the greater part of Germany.

Dublin

On July 20th, the team shipped to Dublin, arriving five days later. A week of rest ensued. Then the great Dublin Show. The Dublin Show is great, not because of the military jumping, nor the size of the obstacles (they are actually less difficult than those on the continent) nor



A Bank at Hamburg

Fifteen foot drop with four foot six fence two strides beyond.

the immense crowds that attend; these are all a part, naturally. But at Dublin, the horse is supreme. There one lives, thinks and talks horse, and at the show are more horses, and better horses than will be found at any other spot at one time, anywhere in the world.

The military jumping is, of course, a special feature, and is very popular with the public. On the last day of the military competitions, there was a crowd in excess of forty thousand sitting in the grandstand, or standing about the huge arena. During the five days of the show, over 100,000 people attended. Seven nations were represented by teams: the English, Irish, Swedish, Swiss, Belgian, French and American. In the three international classes in which we were represented, the team class was won by the French, with America fourth; one of the individual classes was won by America, and the other and last by Switzerland. Our star performer was *Dick Waring*. He fenced beautifully, and won the first individual class quite clearly, thus being excluded from the second day. He also was on the American team during the team class, and performed exceptionally well. *Huron Girl* was well liked by the judges, performed well, and was always scored very high on style.

Several days after the Dublin Show, the team sailed for America. On August 26th it landed in New York, unloaded during the day, shipped that night to Syracuse, and the following morning began competing at the New York State Fair. The horses went well, winning the hunter championship, the jumper championship and all but two of the open jumping classes. On the last night of this show, we shipped to New York City for temporary station at Governor's Island, where horses and men will be rested, reconditioned and prepared for the international shows to be held in Boston and New York during the coming fall.



Buckaroo, Captain Bradford up, wins the Barrierenspringen Prix at Cologne. Dick Waring, Major Chamberlin up, second; Lieutenant Andrea, Germany, third; Miss America, Lieutenant Argo up, fourth.

General Comments

During a series of contests of this kind one is impressed with certain features that seem outstanding. Some that were noted by the American team are recounted in the following pages.

Competition was most severe. During the trip, the team competed against Poland, Italy, Roumania, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Austria, Germany, Sweden, France, Belgium, England, Switzerland, Holland and Ireland. In each contest, there were usually seven nations represented, and from ninety to one hundred and twenty entries. In Poland the competition was more severe and the obstacles more difficult than in the Olympic Games of either 1924 or 1928. Italy was represented by seven officers and twenty horses; Poland by from fifty to sixty excellent riders and mounts; Roumania by twelve; France by fourteen; America by nine. But the great problem of the American team was to have even five or six mounts ready to go at the start of a class. In the beginning, our horses received injuries from jumping, or other causes that were unavoidable. *Dick Waring*, probably the greatest jumper of the team, was seldom able to enter the ring in either Poland or Germany. His trouble was nothing more than a bruised heel, received from overreaching while jumping, but sufficient to prevent his use. *Proctor* was disabled during most of the Warsaw Concours, having gotten astride a kicking bar in a strange stable. (Our horses are all accustomed to box stalls.) *Miss America* suffered at times from an old injury in the fore leg. *Buckaroo* twisted a pastern one day while jumping and was of no use for some time. *Garcon* proved to be a poor choice. He was never lame, but was an un-

willing and stubborn mount, and was of absolutely no use to the team.

In both Poland and Germany, there is a handicapping system intended to gradually eliminate the old established horses from the game, and introduce new blood.

In each class, the course of jumps is entirely different from preceding or succeeding classes.

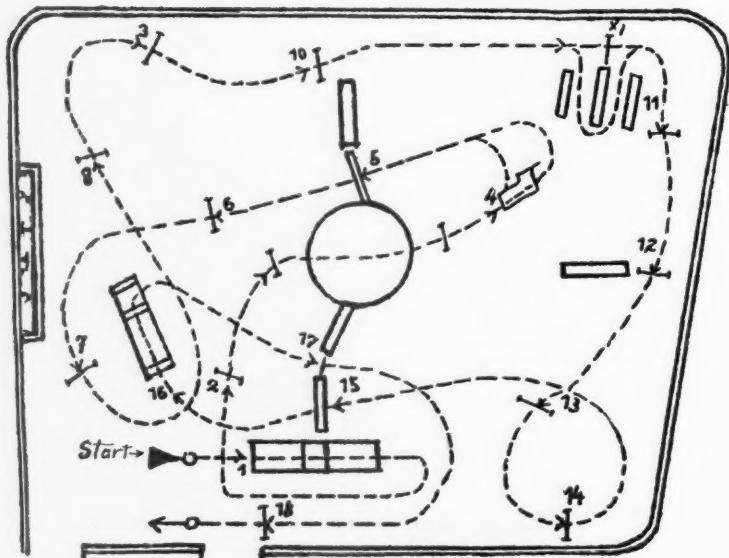
Classes are conducted either on a speed basis, the fastest horse among those having perfect scores winning, or a minimum speed is prescribed. In the latter case, the speeds run from 300 meters a minute, for the classes in which the jumps are especially large and difficult, to 440 meters a minute for those in which there is less difficulty to be encountered. In such cases, the winner is usually decided by the jump off, both jumps and speed being increased.

The courses varied in length from one half mile to one and three-quarters mile; the number of jumps from twelve to twenty-six. Touches were never counted, but the courses were so long and the requirements so well prepared that there were seldom more than five or six horses from among one hundred and twenty entries, that finished with no knock-downs. No two jumps on a course were ever the same, and no two courses ever alike. There were always banks, ditches and water to be jumped, and in one case, even a small pond into which the horse was required to spring from over the top of a fence. The obstacles seldom had wings, and the height varied from 1 meter 20 (four feet) to 1 meter 85 (six feet two inches). The breadth varied from upright obstacles to others with a spread of fourteen feet. The jumping arenas were always outside and in some cases approximated cross country conditions. The areas equalled or were larger than full sized polo fields. Except in the *Epreuves de Puissance*, galloping horses were always required. The American horses were well liked, and were the equals of any with which they competed. For general use, the well bred middle weight American hunter is the ideal type.

There are usually national and international classes. Horses that compete in the national classes are barred from the international classes, and vice versa. In Poland, there were always 150 excellent military entries in the national classes, and from forty to sixty exceptional additional mounts and riders reserved for the international classes.

In some instances, for the team events (*Coup des Nations*), nations were allowed to jump four horses. Only the best three scores were counted. This seemed very fair. In other instances, the course was jumped twice.

In Ireland, judging is not only one performance, but style of going as well. Particularly were entries judged on the style in which they jumped the double and single banks, and to a lesser degree the ditches and water. In all except the International Team Class, entries were paired. They entered the ring and jumped the course at the same time,



A Typical Course in Poland

Eighteen jumps. Speed 400 meters per minute; height one and one third meters, spread four and one half meters; each jump different. A severe memory test as time required taking the gallop and maintaining it throughout the course.

though each followed his own individual course, and no attempt was made to remain abreast. In the team class, the jumping was entirely individual.

The weakest point in the American armor was the training over water. Banks were easily mastered, so that when the famous double bank of Dublin was reached, it seemed a fairly simple matter. The great majority of the horses were equally adept over water obstacles, after the first few days in Poland. But there were at least two who were never quite certain when these jumps were encountered.

In many cases, there were weight requirements, which seemed a very fair proposition. In some instances, particularly at Hamburg, American horses who had won international classes in America, Canada or Europe were handicapped. But this applied equally to horses of other nations, and was fair and accepted by all. Handicapping was done by both increasing the number of obstacles to be jumped, and by increasing the elevation and spread.

In Poland, the handicapping system was in accordance with the total cash prizes won. There were divisions for horses having won 500 zlotys, 1000 zlotys and so on. This system was excellent, in that it was practically impossible for a horse to be an outstanding winner for any great length of time. His handicap soon became so great that he was forced

to give way to a younger and less experienced and handicapped competitor. This system was excellent, and should be studied with care, by the horse show authorities of America, as it tends to eliminate much of the artificiality of the show ring, and promotes good sportsmanship and the breeding of the horse.

American and European shows can not be compared. The great outdoor arenas of Europe, where the courses are ever changing, where entries are counted by the hundreds, and where the course requires a steady gallop of from two to seven minutes, have little in common with our usual show, the small ring, two jumps to a side, twice around type, that is so typical. The American hunter trials, that are becoming increasingly popular, are more nearly analogous. And it is even more certain that the American horse who has had his only training over local show jumps, with their easy approaches, and big wings on each side, can not be said to be prepared for the more difficult and complicated courses that are found in Europe. The American team this year was given a special course of training at the Cavalry School at Fort Riley, Kansas. It had also profited from the experience gained in the last Olympic Games, and from the special training undergone prior to that particular time. Otherwise the reports of the European tour of the past summer would have been of an extremely different nature.

It is needless to say that the team was accorded a very hospitable and sincere reception in all the countries visited. Many of these nations will be guests of America during the coming fall, and it is sincerely hoped that they may be made to feel the depth of American appreciation by the reception, which in turn, is accorded them.

CAVALRY ACTIVITIES

First Cavalry Notes

ON June 19 and 20 the annual tactical inspection of the regiment was made by the division commander, Brig. Gen. George V. H. Moseley, accompanied by Brig. Gen. LeRoy Eltinge, brigade commander.

On June 3 the regiment commenced its range practice by squadron. By late August the work had been completed excepting a small amount of mounted pistol and saber exercise. The range having been vacated by the squadrons, machine gun firing was started on August 21 to be continued approximately one month.

The regiment is scheduled to leave Marfa for Fort Bliss on October 2 to participate in the 1929 maneuvers of the 1st Cavalry Division.

Relinquishing command of the First Cavalry after a tour of three years, Colonel C. S. Babcock left the post on August 5 for Kansas City and was succeeded on August 10 by Colonel J. S. Fair.

Second Cavalry Notes

ON June 10, 1929, a 2d Cavalry polo team, consisting of Captain Burgess, Captain Buckley, Lieutenant Donaldson, Lieutenant Ladue and Lieutenant Ruffner, went to Denver for a series of games with the Denver Polo Club. During the stay at Denver, and through the courtesy of the commanding officer, Fitzsimons Hospital, the members of the team stopped at the Fitzsimons Hospital Officers' Club. The many other courtesies and hospitalities extended to the team by the commanding officer, Fitzsimons Hospital, and by the Denver Polo Club made the visit to Denver a very pleasant experience.

On July 1st, Lieutenant Ruffner returned to Fort Riley and Lieutenant Dewey joined the team, which then proceeded to Colorado Springs to take part in the Broadmoor Tournament. At Colorado Springs the team had the good fortune to win both the six-goal and the eight-goal tournament. It lost the high-goal tournament in a hard fought game to a fourteen-goal team, consisting of Mr. Paul Miehelet, Mr. Jack Vickers, Colonel Neill and Mr. Arthur Perkins. The treatment accorded the team at Colorado Springs was in line with the high standard of sportsmanship for which the Broadmoor Tournaments are famed.

The team feels especially indebted to Mr. Arthur Perkins and Colonel Neill for the generous and courteous manner in which all details were handled.

On July 2, F Troop, with E Troop's Rough Riders and the Band, attached, entrained for Clay Center to participate in the North Central Kansas Patriot Celebration, sponsored by the Dexter Post No. 1 of the American Legion. The Detachment returned to the Post the night of July 6th.

On June 15th, the 1st Squadron did some jumping and cross-country riding for Pathe News.

Troop A and the Band participated in the Cattlemen's Picnic at Kingman, Kansas, on July 31st, August 1st and 2d. The troop hiked to Abilene, where the horses and equipment were entrained, the men traveling by bus from Abilene to Kingman. The return trip was made using the same means of transportation.

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Third Cavalry Notes

THE Third Cavalry (less 1st Squadron) has just completed a most strenuous summer of training with the civilian components, commencing with the R. O. T. C. and concluding with a brigade of the 62d Cavalry Division.

The R. O. T. C. students from the Virginia Military Institute trained at Fort Myer from June 15th to July 26th, ending the camp by an exhibition witnessed by representatives from the Chief of Cavalry's office.

This year in addition to the Cavalry C. M. T. C. from the 3d Corps Area the regiment trained a detachment from the 2d Corps Area which made the 1929 camp the largest ever held at Fort Myer.



General Summerall Inspects the C. M. T. C. at Fort Myer

During the C. M. T. C., the regiment was also engaged in the training of two regiments of the 62d Cavalry Division, the 305th and 30th Cavalry, which regiments later assisted in the training of the C. M. T. C.

At a most impressive and picturesque ceremony the oath of allegiance to the United States was administered to the C. M. T. C. students by the Judge Advocate General, Major General E. A. Kreger. After this ceremony all troops of the garrison were addressed by the Secretary of War. A number of high ranking officers were present on the reviewing stand with Secretary Good.

Following the C. M. T. C., the 306th, 307th Cavalry and the 402d Engineers spent a two weeks' period of training at Fort Myer. The last four days of camp were spent at Fort Humphreys where an extensive maneuver was conducted for units to include the regiment as a part of a cavalry brigade. The return march to Fort Myer was conducted as a rear guard and pursuit exercise, the 307th Cavalry forming the rear guard of the brigade and the 306th Cavalry conducting the direct pursuit.

At Fort Humphreys a cross country pistol and sabre course, approximately two miles in length, was laid out. The direction was marked by white flags, the approach to a pistol target by a red flag, and a sabre dummy by a khaki flag. Seven pistol and ten sabre target were arranged at irregular intervals on the course. Each competitor was furnished seven rounds of pistol ammunition. The course was ridden at the trot; the contestants starting at intervals of one minute. As they approached the khaki or red flags the appropriate weapon was drawn, an increased gait taken up and the attack launched. The last number of each group wore a white shirt. After he passed the target, a record was made of all hits on the target and of all penetrations of the dummy. These scores were consolidated and the results published to the brigade.

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Fourth Cavalry Notes

DURING the past three months, the troops of the 4th Cavalry have been busy with target practice. As the season draws to a close, the prospects for a high percentage qualified in all arms are bright. The Machine Gun Troop has finished range firing with 94.6% qualified.

Troop "F", the "Black Horse Troop", and the 4th Cavalry Band, marched to Belle Fourche, S. D., July 1st for the Black Hills Round-up. Here they staged a musical drill each afternoon of the exposition, which was heartily received by the spectators. These organizations also performed at the Rapid City Indian Council in July, and the Deadwood "Days of 76", and Rapid City Alfalfa Palace Fair in August and September.

On June 21st, 22nd and 29th, the 4th Cavalry staged a Horse Show and Gymkana at the Fair Grounds in Sturgis. The show consisted of a number of Jumping and Novelty events. Some sixty head of thorough-

bred stock were shown in Stallion, Brood Mare, Riding Horse and Colt Classes. This show was an entire success, and will probably be an annual event in the Black Hills.

On July 20th to 23rd, the Black Hills and South Dakota State Polo Tournaments were held at Fort Meade. Teams from Minneapolis, Minnesota, Pierre, S. D., Hot Springs, S. D., the 4th F. A. at Fort Robinson, Neb., and the 4th Cavalry competed. Pierre won the Black Hills Tournament and Minneapolis the consolation. The 4th Cavalry defeated the 4th F. A. at Fort Meade early in July and again on the latter's ponies at Fort Robinson in August. The Academic Blue Team from the Cavalry School came to Fort Meade for two games with the 4th Cavalry in July. In the first game, the 4th Cavalry was successful and won by one goal. In the second game, the Cavalry School Team reversed the result and won by one goal.

The Corps Area Commanders Tactical Inspection of the 4th Cavalry was held on June 13th, 1929, by Lt. Colonel George M. Russell, Cavalry, Assistant Chief of Staff G-3, 7th Corps Area.

Troop E, 4th Cavalry commanded by Captain James I. Gibbon, 4th Cavalry, has been designated to take the test for the Goodrich Trophy this year.

General Herbert B. Crosby, Chief of Cavalry, inspected the 4th Cavalry on June 13th and 14th. He was accompanied by Colonel Edgar A. Sirmyer, 14th Cavalry.

The following officers have recently been assigned to the 4th Cavalry: Captain Leo L. Gocker, 2nd Lieut. Hugh L. Stevenson and 2nd Lieut. Joseph A. Raock. The latter two graduated from the Military Academy last June. Captain Gocker has been on duty at the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia.

During the month of July, twenty-three Reserve Officers of the 324th Cavalry, 66th Cavalry Division, 9th Corps Area, received fourteen days active duty training with the 4th Cavalry at Fort Meade, South Dakota. This is the second year that officers of the 324th Cavalry have received training with the 4th Cavalry and they all expressed a desire to continue their annual training with the 4th Cavalry at Fort Meade.

The Troop Officers of the 324th Cavalry were attached to troops of the 4th Cavalry, the major to Squadron Headquarters and the Regimental Commander to Regimental Headquarters and all performed duties in accordance with their attachments.

On July 9, 10 and 11, practical instruction was received in drill, grooming, equitation, range firing with rifle and pistol and the pistol and saber course in the afternoons, conferences were held on target practice, employment of cavalry, security, administration, organization, weapons, other arms, Air Corps and Artillery. July 12th to 19th was devoted to an eight day's regimental practice march through the scenic Black Hills.



4th Cavalry in Camp at Custer, South Dakota

July 12th the regiment marched from Fort Meade to Brandhurst's Ranch, a distance of 22 miles. This march was through heavily timbered hills, impassable for wheel transportation, so the field train traveled on main highways via Deadwood. Critique in camp on march discipline.

July 13th the march was to Pactola, a distance of twenty-three miles. Scouting and patrolling were carried on with a critique in camp.

July 14th, the march was to Hill City, which is one of the oldest settlements in the Black Hills. Instruction was given in advance guard and outposts, followed by a critique.

July 15th, the regiment marched to Custer, which is one of the oldest and best known towns in the Black Hills. It was on the site of Custer that gold was discovered first in the Black Hills. This day's march disclosed the grandest scenery of the Black Hills. A halt was made at Sylvan Lake, which is 6,400 feet above sea level and which is but a few miles from Harney Peak, 7,640 feet high, the highest point between the Rocky Mountains and the Atlantic coast. The famous Needles also were in close view from this point. Due to the steep ascent and switch-back road, it was impossible to carry on any instruction this day except march discipline. Distance marched seventeen miles.

July 17th the march to Deerfield was through a beautiful country, less mountainous than the march from Hill City to Custer. Instruction was given in Flank Guard and Communication. Distance marched, twenty miles.

July 18th the march was to Bulldog Spur, where camp was pitched on the side of a hill at the foot of which was a beautiful trout stream, which afforded diversion and many fine specimens of the finny tribe. This camp was but a few miles from Lead, which is a town of about 4,000

people and which is in part, undermined by the Homestake Mine, the largest gold mine in the world. Distance marched, twenty-four miles.

Fifth Cavalry Notes

DURING the summer months the Regiment completed its small arms target practice with highly gratifying results, its percentage being higher than that of last year when it stood second among the Cavalry Regiments. The Machine Gun Troop qualified 100 per cent with 36 Experts.

In addition to the regular training, the R. O. T. C. Cavalry Unit of the Texas A. & M. College trained at Fort Clark from June 5th to July 16th. There also were forty-five Cavalry Reserve Officers, members of the 311th and 312th Cavalry here for training from July 14th to 27th. These two camps added to the social activity of the Post.

The Post had the pleasure of entertaining both the Corps Area Commander, Major General Lassiter, and the former Division Commander, Brigadier General Mosely, during the latter part of June.

A very successful baseball season is coming to a close with an exciting fight for first place in the Post League between Headquarters Troop and Troop A.

The Regimental Team also had a very successful season having made several trips, the outstanding ones being to Menard, Texas, during the Menard Live Stock Association Horse Show and Race Meet where a three day series was played and won, and to Rosita, Coahuila, Mexico, where the strong Mexican Club beat us in an exciting game by the score of 2—1.

The Horse Show stable has been organized and the training is progressing very satisfactorily under Captain J. H. Irving. The Team is being prepared for the Cavalry Division Horse Show at Fort Bliss in November and it is expected that before the show several new jumpers will be developed.

Polo is also under way the teams having been strengthened by the recent arrival of Major Clark P. Chandler and Major Wilfrid M. Blunt, the latter bringing with him a string of several ponies. Two practice matches are being played each week.

The first tournament play will be at Fort Bliss in November after the Annual Division Horse Show.

Sixth Cavalry on the March

THE 6th Cavalry (less Troop B), starting September 10th, marched from Fort Oglethorpe to Camp Jackson, S. C., to participate in the combined maneuvers with other troops of the 4th Corps Area. The distance of the march, 394 miles, was covered in seventeen marching days. By its return to Fort Oglethorpe about November 10th, the regiment expects to have covered approximately 1,000 miles.

Seventh Cavalry Notes

THE 7th Cavalry, Lieutenant Colonel Charles McH. Eby commanding, has spent a busy summer. During the month of July the regiment completed record firing with the rifle, machine rifle and machine gun, on the Dona Ana target range. Excellent qualification percentages were made with all three arms, the regiment qualifying 96.06 per cent with the rifle and 100 per cent with both machine rifle and machine gun. Captain Roye P. Gerfen's machine gunners made enviable qualifications, as follows: Experts, 57; first-class gunners, 14; second-class gunners, 4.

August has been devoted to a number of garrison duties, including furnishing instructors and horses for the summer training camps, and completing record practice in mounted pistol and saber.

Troop B, Captain T. E. Voigt commanding, won the Aronson Trophy for the third time by making the highest saber qualification in the regiment. This entitles B Troop to retain the trophy permanently.

Second Lieutenant T. S. Riggs won a trophy for his excellent work with his troop of C. M. T. C. students.

On August 30th, a regimental review was held. Following the review, the Goodrich Trophy was formally presented to Troop A, its winners for 1928.

The regiment is busily engaged in preparing for the fall maneuvers and the Horse Show and Polo Tournament, which follow in the first part of November. The horses seem nearly as enthusiastic as the men, wherefore we expect many blues and much silver.

New arrivals in the 7th, heartily welcomed by the Garry Owens, are Major John J. Bohn, Captain T. B. Apgar, Captain G. A. Moore, First Lieutenant C. V. Bromley and First Lieutenant A. A. Frierson.

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Ninth Cavalry Notes

THE Ninth Cavalry Organization Day was celebrated on July 27. The Regiment was host to six hundred guests, which included the Commandant and prominent citizens of Junction City. Immediately before dinner the Regimental Commander, Lieutenant Colonel R. M. Campbell, gave a brief history of the Regiment and presented several cups awarded for the best lawns and gardens in Rileyville (The 9th Cavalry village). Interesting speeches were also made by former officers and enlisted men of the Ninth Cavalry, after which a barbecue dinner was served. During the afternoon a baseball game between the Colored Detachment of Fort Leavenworth and the Ninth Cavalry kept the numerous visitors interested, and a dance given at the Ninth Cavalry Club ended the day's festivities.

During the summer months a majority of the enlisted personnel of the regiment went on furlough, as such privileges are next to impossible during the school year.

Several changes have occurred among the commissioned personnel of the regiment: Colonel W. V. Morris to Governors Island, N. Y., Majors Roffe and Cockrell being transferred to the DOL, with station at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Captain H. B. Gibson to A & M College, Texas, and Captain F. W. Koester to the faculty, The Cavalry School. Lieutenant Colonel R. M. Campbell, Major H. J. M. Smith and Captain Orland S. Peabody replaced the above named officers.

The regiment, due to the efforts of Colonel W. V. Morris, now boasts a polo team of its own, and has entered The Cavalry School Junior Tournament which takes place August 25 to September 7.

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Tenth Cavalry Notes

SINCE the last issue of THE CAVALRY JOURNAL there have been many changes in the personnel of the regiment. We have lost a total of ten officers, including Lieutenant Colonel Rethorst, Major Hazeltine, Captains Correll, Morrow, Matte, Cullinane, and Lieutenants Trew, Theis, Heacock, and Yeomans. The following officers have been ordered here: Lieutenant Colonel Fisher, Majors Burch and Youngs, and Lieutenants Stockton, Tompkins, Boone, Bornside, and Robbins. Of these, Colonel Fisher, Majors Youngs and Burch, and Lieutenants Boone and Robbins have not yet joined.

During the month of May the various detachments which had been sent out to important points along the border were withdrawn and the garrison was once more at strength. The First Squadron returned from duty at Nogales, about seventy-five miles from Fort Huachuca, on May 15th. A Platoon of Troop E, which had been stationed at Lochiel, across the Huachuca Mountains from the post, arrived here on May 13th. Companies I and K of the 25th Infantry reached the post by motor transportation from Douglas on May 11th.

As soon as the regiment had assembled, the target season was started with preliminary rifle work. Each troop after completing the rifle firing then conducted machine rifle practice, followed by dismounted pistol work and then the sabre and pistol, mounted. The regimental rifle percentage was 93.15, with B Troop leading with 97.84. With the machine rifle, all troops qualified one hundred per cent. F Troop's Machine Rifle Platoon qualified all experts, with an average score per man of 631.5. At present we are engaged in completing our combat practice and collective firing.

July 28th was observed as Regimental Day. The program included appropriate ceremonies in the morning, followed by special dinners at all organizations at noon, a baseball game in the afternoon and a dance at the Buffalo Club in the evening. Because the 28th fell on Sunday, the following day was observed as a holiday. During the morning program

the Shipp Trophy for the most outstanding soldier in the regiment was awarded to Staff Sergeant William H. Williams, Headquarters Troop.

Colonel McCaskey left the post on August 23d, en route to the Army and Navy General Hospital, Hot Springs, Arkansas, for what it is hoped will be a short period of observation and treatment.

The members of the regiment were saddened by the death of Captain Gabriel R. Mead, which occurred on August 27th at Camp Stephen D. Little, Nogales, where Captain Mead had been on duty with the C. M. T. C. During the short time he had been with the regiment he had impressed all of us with his soldierly qualities and his never-failing cheerfulness. The loss of his services and his good-fellowship is severely felt by the officers and men of the regiment.

All our efforts are now being directed toward our participation in the maneuvers. The regiment leaves Fort Huachuca on September 26th and enters the maneuver zone on October 10th at Akela, New Mexico. After the maneuvers we are to enter the horse show and polo tournamnt. We expect to leave Fort Bliss about November 12th and to arrive at Fort Huachuca about November 26th.

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Eleventh Cavalry Notes

THE past quarter has been one of intense activity, requiring the maximum effort and coordination on the part of the whole command in order to put across in proper style the various summer training camps. The new accommodations on the post for handling these camps proved to be of great worth and it is believed that the camps were more successful than ever before and more satisfactory both to the civilian components and to the regular troops in charge of the training.

During the early part of August the regiment rendered assistance to the civilian populace of the Peninsula in the staging of the Serra Pilgrimage, an annual pageant of historic interest. This fiesta could hardly have been successful without the assistance and cooperation of the Post. The troops staged an interesting Mojiganga, consisting of musical drills, fancy riding, field events, military races, etc., in addition to a parade through the streets of Monterey. All this activity at the same time that the O. R. C. camp was being conducted was quite a strain on the whole command but the effort was deeply appreciated by the populace and it is believed that the good will and spirit fostered by the military participation was worth the trouble involved.

The latter part of the month, the First Squadron, with one radio section and one platoon of Machine Gun Troop attached, made a ten-days' march to the Big Sur P. O. where camp was made. The march was made for the purpose of providing recreation as well as training for the men after the summer C. M. T. and R. O. T. C. camps and to take shots for the

motion picture, "Troopers Three." While there a number of parties were sent out with loaded pack animals to reconnoiter the mountain trails in the vicinity.

Our polo situation is especially bright. The Del Monte Properties Company has been more accommodating this year than ever before and we are permitted the use of the Del Monte fields regularly for practice. Aside from turning out a crack team, a large number of officers of the regiment are turning out regularly and enjoying the play and a great deal of green material is being developed. Our first team, led by Captain Delmar Wood, recently played without a single setback throughout a series of eight games in San Francisco against various military teams. The team then went to Santa Barbara and continued to be successful against some of the best civilian teams on the West Coast and is now participating in a series of games at Santa Monica. As this goes to press we still have nothing but victories to report.

A project now the subject of much interest and enthusiasm is the filming of a cavalry motion picture, "Troopers Three." The filming of this picture is receiving the hearty support of the Eleventh Cavalry. This support is due to the belief by all authorities concerned that the picture is to be a credit to the Service and that particularly it will demonstrate the importance and capabilities of cavalry. Since the participation of the troops is to be entirely a representation of cavalry life and training it is not expected that our troop training will be interrupted to any serious extent. A real effort is being made by The Tiffany Stahl Productions, in cooperation with the Regimental Commander, to see that this picture depicts military life more accurately than the vast majority of military pictures are prone to do. Mr. Guy Empey, author of "Over the Top," etc., and himself a former Eleventh Cavalryman, is the author of the scenario for "Troopers Three."

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Twelfth Cavalry Notes

FOLLOWING the recent Mexican revolution, a change was made in the garrison at Matamoros. The 43d Mexican Cavalry replaced our old friends of the 17th. An exchange of visits of courtesy was made in June; the officers of the 12th Cavalry, led by Lieutenant Colonel Stanley Koch, called on Major General Serrano, Jefe de Plaza, and Colonel (now Brigadier General) Avila, commanding officer of the 43d, and the officers of that regiment; the Mexican officers returning the call on the 2d of July. For both calls the visiting officers were mounted. Brief inspections were made and refreshments served. The accompanying photograph was made at the headquarters of the 43d Cavalry.

In August, another change was made in the Mexican garrison, the 68th Cavalry from Torreon replacing the 43d Cavalry. We regret the

departure of the 43d Cavalry, who had a very good baseball team which played several close games with the Fort Brown team, and who were organizing a polo team for this winter, but arrangements are now being made for an interchange of visits with the new regiment and we expect to meet them on the diamond and polo field before long.

Baseball has flourished this summer with a Post league composed of troop teams, and a Post team, which has played several series with Brownsville teams, the 43d Mexican Cavalry, Fort Ringgold and Fort McIntosh. The team made a barnstorming trip as far as Laredo in August. So far this season the team has won half its games and has played very good ball.

The far-famed Gulf fishing, boating and bathing resort of Point Isabel, twenty-five miles from Fort Brown, is the scene of a week's outing by all troops each summer. Leaving their horses in pasture on the "Island," each troop in turn motored to the beach and camped for a week. Sailboats were hired, fishing tackle unpacked and living in bathing suits the whole time, everyone had a fine period of rest and recreation.

The regiment leaves about September 15th for two weeks in the field, including a march of more than 300 miles over hitherto rather unknown country, from 40 to 100 miles north of the Rio Grande, the cattle country that lies just beyond the "Valley."

Colonel Daniel Van Voorhis is expected to join and assume command about October 1, 1929.

Lieutenant Colonel Stanley Koch, assisted by Major Oliver I. Holman, has commenced the training of a team to represent the regiment at the Fort Bliss Horse Show in November. For the benefit of the Horse Show Team a carnival and dance was given at the Officers' Club August 31st, with over 500 civilian guests from the Valley. An evening Horse Show in the new electric lighted outdoor arena is scheduled for September 8th.

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Thirteenth Cavalry Notes

THE annual turnover of the officer personnel of the 13th Cavalry was much greater than usual this year, only nine officers remaining in the regiment out of the twenty-five on duty June 1st. Captains W. R. Irvin and Gene R. Mauger were ordered to the University of Arizona and Captain Ernest A. Williams to the VI Section, The Cavalry School. Our other losses have been officers ordered to the school as students: Major Calvin DeWitt, Jr., and First Lieutenant S. P. Walker to the Advanced Equitation Class; Captain George A. King, who joined the regiment only this summer from National Guard duty at Boise, Idaho, to the Advanced Class; and First Lieutenants Edwin M. Burtness, Lee C. Vance and Lawrence R. Dewey; Second Lieutenants John H. Stadler, Jr., John H.

Claybrook, Jr., Paul R. Greenhalgh, Harry D. Eckert, William H. Nutter, Ronald M. Shaw and Mitchell A. Giddens to the Troop Officers' Class. The gains, slightly more numerous than the losses, include Major Edwin N. Hardy, returning from foreign service in the Philippines; Major Norman E. Fiske, who will join this autumn from duty as student at the Italian Cavalry School, Tordi Quinto, Rome; Captain Catesby ap C. Jones, recently on duty at Virginia Military Institute; Captain H. A. Myers, who has just completed the Company Officers' Course at the Infantry School, and First Lieutenant Winfield C. Scott, joining from duty at the Overseas Replacement Depot at Fort McDowell, California. This year's graduating classes at the school have furnished us Captain Earle F. Cress, First Lieutenants William L. Barriger, John C. Hamilton, Hayden A. Sears, Frank H. Bunnell, Edwin C. Greiner, Don E. Carleton, Wendell Blanchard and Augustine D. Dugan, while Second Lieutenants Conrad S. Babcock, Jr., and George V. Ehrhardt have recently been transferred from the 11th Cavalry.

Troop A, Captain Guy D. Thompson, commanding, won the baseball championship of the Inter-regimental League. Following this accomplishment, the troop took two games out of three in a series with Company A, 9th Engineers. This entitled Troop A to play off a series with the 2d Cavalry League for the Post championship. This troop has been selected as the troop of the 13th Cavalry to participate in the Goodrich Trophy Training Test for 1929.

This year the 13th Cavalry was designated by The Commandant, The Cavalry School, as the "parent organization" for the Kansas State Vigilante Shoot. The "Vigilantes" is an association of Kansas bankers for the promotion of rifle and pistol practice. The 13th Cavalry was responsible for the establishment and maintenance of the camp, and also for the operation of the target range. The encampment was held from September 15th to 17th, both dates inclusive. Approximately 400 contestants were present.

During the annual target season just completed the regiment as a whole qualified 94.27 per cent with the rifle, with a total of 419 men completing the course and an average score of 279.07 per man. Fifty-three qualified as expert riflemen, 111 as sharpshooters and 231 as marks-men. The regiment qualified 100 per cent with the machine rifle, the average score per man being 613.85. The Machine Gun Troop qualified 98.49 per cent of 66 men firing, losing one man only. Results by classification: Experts, 20; First-class Gunners, 19, and Second-class Gunners, 26.

A regimental polo team, composed of Captain Febiger, Lieutenants Carleton, Stadler, Burnett and Eckert, visited Denver for a two-week contest with the Denver Polo Club. Out of eight games of eight periods each, the 13th Cavalrymen took seven. On August 25th, the Cavalry School Junior Polo Tournament started, the regiment entering two teams. In the High Goal Bracket, the following officers made up the team: Cap-

tain King, Lieutenants Burnett, Walker, Claybrook. This team won their first two games, but lost the finals to the Bluebirds of the Academic Division, after two extra periods, by a score of seven to six. The Low Goal Bracket team was composed of Lieutenants Vance, Dugan, Ehrhardt, Dewey. This team also won their first two games, but lost the finals to the 2d Cavalry Swans.

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Fourteenth Cavalry Notes

COLONEL EDGAR A. SIRMYER, and the members of the Fourteenth Cavalry have put in an intense training period during the past three months. The troops began with a vengeance their preliminary training for the 1929 target season on April 1st, and they were rewarded for their efforts by qualifying one of the highest percentages ever attained by the regiment. The preliminaries were conducted at the post and the troops, under the command of Major John D. Kelly, marched to Camp Dodge, Iowa, on June 1st, returning to the post on July 1st. They then began making plans for the Summer Training Camps.

During the month of July much was accomplished in the way of polo. The 14th Cavalry team under Major Kelly, made a trip to Fort Snelling, Minnesota, where they made their way to the finals of the Twin Cities Tournament being defeated by Pierre, S. D., after a hard battle. The team prior to leaving were hosts to the Fort Leavenworth team for a series of three games. There are at present two teams on the post, made up of Cavalry and Artillery officers, offering games each Tuesday and Sunday to the general public.

On August 1st, everything was in readiness for the processing of the C. M. T. C. candidates. The post riding hall was made into a number of lanes; the candidates passed in as they arrived at the post and were completely equipped and every detail attended to before they walked out. The Camp was commanded during the period August 1st to 14th, by the Officers of the 349th Infantry, with Colonel Charles B. Robbins, former Assistant Secretary of War, at the head of his regiment. At the end of the 349th Infantry training period Colonel Stanley, commanding the 350th Infantry, took over the duties of training the candidates.

The camp consisted of four companies of Infantry, one troop of Cavalry and one Battery of Field Artillery. Major John D. Kelly, 14th Cavalry, supervised the training of the mounted organizations. During the month all sorts of entertainments were held for the candidates, including an interesting boxing and wrestling tournament which attracted a large crowd from Des Moines and vicinity.

The entire camp were guests of the Iowa State Fair Association at the Diamond Jubilee fair; the candidates under Lieutenant Philip Payne, Inf. (DOL) gave a most interesting setting up drill.

The camp was brought to a close on August 29th, when Governor John Hammill, of Iowa, addressed the candidates.

A number of the officers of the regiment entered horses in the Horse Show of the State Fair. Considering the high class field which showed in the different events more than our share of ribbons came back to the regiment.

Headquarters Troop will move into their new barracks about September 10th. The old barracks were destroyed by fire on December 18, 1928. A new moving-picture building has also been built on the post; it is expected that the garrison will have their own talkies now within a few months, which will add to the many amusements already established on the post by Colonel Sirmyer.

Plans are now in process for the fall and winter training schedules. As a part of the training weekly riding hall drills will be held in the riding hall; these drills were exceedingly popular last winter and attracted very large crowds.

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Twenty-Sixth Cavalry Target Practice

THE 26th Cavalry, Philippine Scouts, has completed a very successful target season. Pistol and saber practice was held in January between the time of the annual tactical inspection and the annual maneuvers. Rifle, machine rifle and machine gun practices was held after maneuvers. Regimental averages were as follows: pistol, dismounted, 84.55 per cent; saber, 89.69 per cent; pistol, mounted, 95.00 per cent; machine rifle, 100.00 per cent; machine gun, 97.65 per cent; and rifle, 96.00 per cent.

Troop E led the regiment with the pistol, dismounted, by qualifying 97.22 per cent, and also with the saber, in which 98.33 per cent qualified. Troop B had the highest percentage of qualifications with the pistol, mounted, 98.85 per cent. The Headquarters Troop led all the troops with the rifle, qualifying 100 per cent of its men, with an average score of 295.73 per man. Troop B led the rifle troops with 97.96 per cent qualified, and Troop F was second among the rifle troops with 97.89 per cent. Troop F has the largest number of recruits of any troop in the regiment.

Our only native cavalry regiment stands very high in marksmanship; a year ago it led all the cavalry regiments with the rifle. At Stotsenburg there is an excellent rifle range with very normal and uniform conditions as to wind, light, etc. The natives are fond of the rifle and they are excellent "holders"; once they get in the "bull", they stay there.

The Machine Gun Troop qualified nearly all its men with the machine gun, but is still having trouble making many expert machine gunners, this qualification being undoubtedly the hardest one to make with any cavalry weapon. The machine rifle is gaining a place of confidence with

the troops as a single-shot weapon, even when used without sandbags or supports other than the bipod and butt rest. The native troops are not so much at home with the pistol and saber, but, nevertheless, as the records show, are able to make very creditable showings with the new combined pistol and saber course.

Squad and platoon combat problems with the rifle were held with very good results at the end of the regular target season. A platoon of Troop A fired a problem against an enemy platoon represented by kneeling silhouettes. Firing was done only at halts during an advance from about the 500-yard point to within about 300 yards of the targets. Over thirty per cent hits were made, one shot in every three actually causing a casualty and every target being hit at least once at some time during the advance.

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Fifty-first Cavalry Brigade Training

THE active duty training period of the Brigade this year was most satisfactory, although the regiments and Brigade Headquarters Troop and Staff trained at different times.

The 101st Cavalry went to Camp the early part of June at Pine Camp, New York, and was immediately followed by the 121st Cavalry. Brigadier General Bryant, his Staff and Headquarters Troop took part in the army maneuvers at Camp Dix during July.

The Army maneuvers proved most interesting and instructive for the Brigade Staff and Headquarters Troop. Although the invasion of the Red Army was only on paper the maneuver developed realistically as well as theoretically. Our brigade mission was to cover the right of the army. During the first day, our brigade was forced to retire under pressure of a division of Red cavalry. We were actually pushed back some twenty miles, setting up approximately seven command posts, to the vicinity of the Delaware River, where we were assisted by naval guns from destroyers. During the night we were reinforced with a battalion of Field Artillery and the morning of the second day the enemy advance was stopped. The following day our brigade drove the Red cavalry across the Rancocas Creek at a deep ford.

The brigade then started pursuit of the Red forces, regaining not only the lost territory but assisting the 27th division on our left in an offensive movement. The problem ended as our brigade executed a turning movement well in advance of the infantry offensive.

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First Squadron, 103d Cavalry Notes

"PROMPT and reckless in going into dismounted action" was the comment of an umpire on the work of the squadron in the big

maneuver at camp this year. And "Prompt and Reckless" has been selected as the objective of the squadron for the future—"prompt" in the sense of being in the right place at the right time and "reckless" as a combination of dash and daring, which is the true spirit of cavalry.

The winning of the "Best Squadron in the Brigade" streamer and the excellent showing made by the individual troops all helped make this "the best encampment yet held," which was the opinion of Brigadier General Edward C. Shannon, commanding the 52d Cavalry Brigade. As in former years, the work at camp was on a competitive basis and the final results were not disclosed until the last Friday, when the Brigade was formed for the awarding of cups, trophies, and streamers.

The 103d Cavalry, commanded by Colonel Arthur C. Colahan, won the "Best Regiment" streamer. This squadron, commanded by Major Edward Hoopes, received the "Best Squadron" streamer; Brigade Headquarters Troop (1st Troop, P. C. C.), commanded by First Lieutenant Effingham B. Morris, the "Best Unit" streamer. Troop A, 103d Cavalry, commanded by Captain Kirk Swing, brought back the "Best Drilled Troop" streamer and the cup awarded by the 103d Cavalry First Sergeants' Association. Troop B (2d Troop, P. C. C.), commanded by Captain Jeremiah F. Neill, Jr., received the "Best Troop Pistol Mounted" streamer. In addition to this, the Medical Detachment and Band of the 103d annexed streamers.

The most interesting feature of this year's camp was, undoubtedly, the four-day maneuver in which the entire brigade participated. Leaving camp early Monday morning of the second week, a twelve-mile march was made to the junction of the Quittapahitta and Swatara Creeks. Here camp was made in a level meadow bordered by woodland. The next morning the regiments separated and moved into a valley of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The 104th marched through the Manada Gap and camped in a pine grove a few miles beyond, and the 103d made a fifteen-mile march through the Indian Town Gap and encamped near Cold Springs, where a beautiful view down Fishing Creek Valley was obtained. The following morning, the regiments advanced on each other, each with a mission of driving back all opposition. The meeting engagement proved most interesting and developed almost every kind of cavalry action. The first encounter was the driving back of a patrol of the 104th by a mounted charge of part of the advance guard of the 103d. From then on the action was rapid, including dismounted action and several mounted charges. After the engagement the 103d moved back to its old camp and the 104th encamped in an adjoining field. The following morning the brigade broke camp in the dark and made a twenty-five-mile march back to Mt. Gretna. On the way the advance guard, furnished by the 104th, was engaged by infantry, which had been brought out in motor trucks to fight a delaying action. This action, in which airplanes participated,

proved very instructive in showing the mobility of infantry when transported by trucks. A check-up on the return to camp showed that the number of casualties in men and horses was almost negligible, and the instruction gained and interest aroused was a maximum.

Since returning to its "home station" the troops in the squadron have not been idle. The Troop B (2d Troop, P.C.C.) Rifle Team won the Cavalry Cup at the annual tournament at Sea Girt, N. J., a trophy which has been successfully defended by teams of the New Jersey Guard for twenty-three years. The team, consisting of Sergeants J. Rule (team captain), J. M. William, R. V. H. Wood, and J. C. Weeks made a score of 340 points out of a possible 400. The Essex Black Horse Troop of Newark was second, with a score of 333. This match was shot at 200 yards standing and 600 yards prone, ten shots per man at each range.

And now for a busy winter of indoor work.

"A short life in the saddle, Lord,
Not long life by the fire."

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Black Horse Troop Organized in Chicago

WITH the regulation ceremony, The Black Horse Troop of Chicago was sworn into service at the Riding Club, Chicago, Thursday evening, April 25th. The official designation of the troop is Headquarters Troop, 106th Cavalry.

The Black Horse Troop is under the immediate command of Capt. Maxwell M. Corpening, former cavalry instructor at the United States Military Academy. John T. Knight, Jr., has been named First Lieutenant, and Munroe McCloskey Second Lieutenant. All three men have resigned from the army and are in business in Chicago.

The personnel of The Chicago Black Horse Troop comprises experienced horsemen, most of whom have had previous military training.

Captain Corpening was born in North Carolina and is now Managing Editor of the Chicago Riding Club. He was graduated from West Point in June, 1918, and was promoted to the grade of Captain within one month. He was detailed back to West Point as instructor in equitation and cavalry tactics, and while there, in 1919, was in command of the official escort troop, a duty similar to the one he undertakes with The Chicago Black Horse Troop. He participated in numerous army horse shows, polo and endurance matches.

Lieutenant Knight was graduated from West point in 1918 and ranked number one in the corps of cadets for military efficiency. He is connected with the Builders' Development Corporation in Chicago. He is a son of Brig. Gen. John T. Knight, U. S. A., formerly stationed in Chicago.

Lieutenant McCloskey was graduated from West Point in 1924 and is a son of Colonel Manus McCloskey of the regular army, now in organized reserve duty here. Lieutenant McCloskey is associated with Clark & Trainor, realtors.

A military committee, consisting of Col. Walter J. Fisher, of the 106th Cavalry (of which The Chicago Black Horse Troop will be a part), Col. J. P. McAdams, of the War Department in Washington, Maj. W. T. Delihant, of the Division Staff, and Captain Corpener selected from the four hundred applicants for positions in the Troop, fifty-three candidates for the initial enlistment. Others will be selected from the large reserve list of applicants until the number in the Troop and Band will reach approximately one hundred. In the selection of the members of the Band, it has been decided to recruit only the best members of high school bands of Chicago. The contract between the State of Illinois and the Chicago Riding Club has been consummated, setting over the use of one-half of the Riding Club and the arena on special nights as an armory for the Troop. Specially designed full dress uniforms for ceremonial occasions are to be provided.

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Activities of the 305th Cavalry, Philadelphia, Pa.

IT was with deepest regret that the 305th Cavalry saw its former Executive Officer, Major John M. Thompson, Cavalry D.O.L., leave for his new post at the General Service School, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. During the four years of his stay, "Tommy" endeared himself not only to the regiment but to the many people with whom he came in contact. Always a hard worker, he was also a hard rider and became a popular figure in the local horse shows and in the fields of the various hunt clubs with which he hunted.

At the end of June a dinner at the "Lilacs" was given in Major Thompson's honor by the officers and men of the regiment. Everyone hates to see him leave and all wished him good luck and a return engagement in Philadelphia.

Major Charles L. Clifford, Cavalry D.O.L., succeeds Major Thompson as Executive. He has just reported for duty and, being a good horseman, should find Philadelphia far from dull.

The regiment has lost a valuable "Second in Command" through the transfer of Lieutenant Colonel William Henry Clifford to the command of the 307th Cavalry at Richmond, Va. Colonel Clifford lives at Chudleigh Oatlands, Va., where he raises horses and mint. He served for many years as an officer of U. S. Marines, and the 307th may well congratulate itself upon its new C. O.

On July 1st the regiment, less the 2d Squadron, reported for duty at

Fort Myer, Va., after a week's refresher course, and thanks to winter spent with book and pencil, the officers were ready to receive the C. M. T. C. candidates.

The work of handling and training the C. M. T. C. is exceedingly interesting and just the type of duty which would fall to the citizen soldiery of the country in the event of war.

Officers at Fort Myer, from Colonel Henry down, did everything in their power to make the tour of duty agreeable and successful. From the moment the C. M. T. C. students arrived they were in the hands of Reserve Officers. Reserve Officers made all assignments to troops, received the candidates and subsequently commanded the three troops in the training squadron, while the men of the Regular Establishment stood aside and acted as advisors only.

As Fort Myer has but a squadron the training program of the 305th Cavalry was so arranged that the squadrons of the regiment came down at different times, while Regimental Headquarters remained during the whole tour of duty. The first squadron, commanded by Major E. F. Rutan, whose promotion has just come through, was on duty from July 1st to 14th. The second squadron, in command of Captain Leslie C. Bell, from July 7th to 22d. The overlap period was used for the Refresher Course of the second squadron.

Six of the officers remained on duty for the whole period of the camp.

To the men who were officers during the war it was a great relief to be given command again. The continuous schools, without an opportunity to actually command troops, were slowly but surely costing the Reserve Corps its best men. The present system, if carried out, will do more to build up esprit than anything that has been done since the war.

It is the opinion not only of Colonel Forbes, who remained with his regiment while it was in camp, but also of all the officers who attended Fort Myer, that this was the most successful tour of duty ever gone through.

The officers of the 305th Cavalry received so many signal courtesies from the officers of the Brave Rifles and their families that a detailed account cannot be given. All will retain a most pleasant recollection of Fort Myer.

With summer vacations a thing of the past, the regiment is preparing for a strenuous winter. The usual riding classes will be held twice a week. There will also be conferences at night every other week and weekly meetings at Wednesday noon at Regimental Headquarters.

Cub hunting has started and the hunting members of the regiment are all looking forward to a good season. Foxes—native red—are reported to be plentiful and in good shape, so sport should be excellent. The following are among the men who hunt regularly:

Colonel William Innes Forbes, Radnor Hunt; Major Horace B. Hare, M.F.H., Radnor Hunt; Major Donald L. McCuen, M.F.H., Siemeade Hunt; Major Joseph N. Ewing, M.F.H., Eagle Hounds Hunt; Captain Max Livingston, Jr., Whitelands and Radnor Hunt; Captain William S. Brogden, Whitelands Hunt; Captain Andrew W. Porter, Pickering Hunt; First Lieutenant Lucullus N. D. Mitchell, Whitelands Hunt; First Lieutenant William J. Taylor, Jr., Whitelands Hunt; First Lieutenant William W. Frazier, 3d, Whitemarsh Hunt; Second Lieutenant Walter L. Fetterall, Whitelands Hunt, and Second Lieutenant William M. Bray, Pickering Hunt.

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306th Cavalry

THE 306th Cavalry engaged in active training August 11th to 24 at Fort Myer, Virginia, under the direction of officers of the 3d Cavalry. Present, 31 officers and 6 enlisted reservists. The regiment trained in conjunction with the 307th Cavalry from Virginia. Similar contact between these two regiments for the last six or seven years has resulted in warm friendships and perfect cooperation.

Horses, arms, equipment, including officers' saddles, and all facilities were supplied by the 3d Cavalry. Colonel Henry personally directed the training, and to his energy, thoroughness and patience and the willing cooperation of the other officers of the 3d Cavalry was largely due the great success of the training period.

The regiment has never had a more interesting, instructive or pleasant period of active duty. It differed from former periods in that it afforded much more practical field work—actual troop leading and command, in which Reserve officers naturally become very "rusty" during long periods of inactivity. Incidentally, this called for more riding than usual—always a most welcome feature.

The schedule was an energetic one and interesting throughout. There was not a dull moment during the entire two weeks. Everything was practical and to the point.

The first week was spent at Fort Myer. Here the work embraced cavalry drill through school of the troop. Reserve officers commanded units of the regular cavalry. By rotation, every officer commanded in succession squads, platoons and troops. Preceding each drill there was a demonstration by a Regular unit. In addition, there was instruction and practice with pistol, mounted and dismounted (instruction and record practice in the latter), the saber, in equitation, animal management, signal communications, saddling and bridling, packing for the field, and in cavalry supply. On Wednesday afternoon there was a tactical ride and on Friday afternoon a field exercise with troops of the 3d Cavalry, Reserve officers in command.

The second week was spent in the field, on the Humphrey Reservation. On the march down, each morning of the stay, and on the march back, a continuing series of tactical problems was carried out. For the week a reduced regiment was made up of the regular troops, with Reserve officers commanding appropriate units, commands rotating so as to give opportunities to command various units. Problems were two-sided, troops using blank ammunition. The situations covered meeting engagements, advance guard, attack of a position, delaying action and establishment of an outpost. It is believed this field work was extremely valuable for Reserve officers, who have little opportunity for actual command of troops. It was certainly highly interesting. Regular officers acted as umpires and instructors.

On Wednesday afternoon all officers engaged in pistol and saber practice, and on Thursday afternoon they ran through an unknown pistol and saber course—one of the most interesting features of the entire period. Each evening Colonel Henry held a critique of the day's exercise. Our officers acclaimed this week the most interesting and instructive of their Reserve careers. Without doubt, they derived great benefit from it.

Weather was perfect during the entire period and the mess was, as usual at Fort Myer, excellent.

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307th Cavalry

THE regiment completed a most instructive period of active-duty training at Fort Myer, Virginia, on August 24th, under the supervision of Colonel Guy V. Henry, 3d Cavalry.

The last phase included a march to Fort Humphreys, where tactical rides and terrain exercises as part of a continuous problem were held for three days. The final event in camp was a group problem—the assumption being that each individual was the bearer of important messages in hostile country. Armed with pistol and saber, the riders left the starting point at intervals of $1\frac{1}{2}$ minutes, with ten minutes between groups—negotiated an unknown course marked by flags; a red flag indicated that a pistol target was in the vicinity; a white flag a saber target. (The targets simulated the presence of the enemy intercepting the messenger.) The rider was required to gallop—locate the target, either fire his pistol or attack with saber, as indicated by the flags, and continue on his course.

The aggregate score of each group was recorded. The last messenger in each group wore a white shirt to indicate to the scorers that it was comparatively safe for them to resume the upright posture for ten minutes, in which time the group totals were recorded.

The 307th carried off the honors in the commissioned groups.

The sporting feature of this problem appealed to all participants and

was indeed a most "appropriate finale" to a cavalryman's active-duty training.

Lieutenant Colonel William H. Clifford, Cav-Res., assumed command of the regiment June 29, 1929. Colonel Clifford served during the Philippine Insurrection, Boxer Rebellion in China and in the World War. The regiment is to be congratulated in having at its head an officer of such broad experience and training.

Major F. K. Chapin, Cavalry (DOL), Unit Instructor, reported for duty July 31.

October 1st marks the beginning of the inactive duty training period. It is expected that the majority of the officers will enroll for the correspondence courses. It is especially desired that the officers who will be unable to attend the conference regularly avail themselves of this opportunity to continue their training.

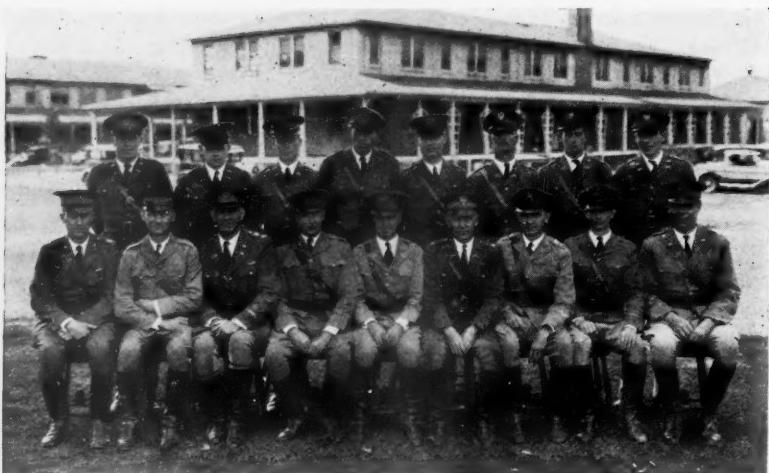
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The 862d Field Artillery Goes to Camp

ON Sunday, August 18, the officers of the 862d Field Artillery (a Reserve regiment, part of the 62d Cavalry Division) found their way to the line of tents reserved for their use at Fort Hoyle, Maryland, with a certain feeling of wonder—not because they were inexperienced with military life, for many had seen active service abroad in the World War and here in this country at other posts, but because this was the first meeting in the field of this newly organized regiment. Our regimental commander, Lieutenant Colonel Roger S. B. Hartz, was on hand with his battalion commanders, Major Frank Gosnell, Jr., and Major Earl P. Robinson, to make the necessary introductions and to see that the junior officers were comfortably established in their open-air quarters. It was arranged that we should mess at the Officers' Club during our two weeks' stay on the post, and that evening the dining table was surrounded by the twenty of us—the atmosphere during dinner was cordial and reassuring, and we felt that our first camp was to be a success.

Major John N. Hauser, commanding the 2d Battalion, 6th Field Artillery at Fort Hoyle, was detailed to be our senior instructor; and during the course of our two weeks' training he made generous use of the officers of his battalion and the equipment, men, horses, guns and fire control instruments of his several batteries in order to enable us to familiarize ourselves again with the duties which we would be called upon to perform in the event of a national emergency.

The first week was devoted to maneuvers in the field, instruction in the calculation of firing data, service of the piece, and intensive equitation—so intensive, in fact, that the softness of the lounge chairs and couch in the Officers' Club was gratefully and increasingly acknowledged



862d Field Artillery (Horse) in Camp at Fort Hoyle, Md.

by those of us who had not been in the saddle for some time. Two practical problems of conducting a battalion into battle position, with the necessary establishment of all communication lines after proper reconnaissance and issuance of orders, were undertaken on two consecutive mornings of this week by the group of us, led on the first day by Major Robinson, and on the second day by Captain Robert N. Krebs. The criticism of the Regular officers, who inspired these attempts, was varied, but favorable, on the whole. Several evenings of this first week were spent in an administration building which had been turned over to us for the purpose of study; there one might have felt that he was in the august presence of a general staff, so importance and so learned we appeared, chewing our pencils away, our wrinkled brows directed, not at war-time maps, but at the small print of the Army Field Regulations Manual, while a hushed conversation might be carried on by some young second lieutenant with a more experienced superior in an attempt to learn his next day's job more quickly and not keep the fair guest, whom he had invited up for dinner, waiting too long. By the end of the week we had acquired to the best of our ability the rolling, spur-swinging gait of a field artilleryman, so that when most of us departed for home in or around Baltimore over the week-end we felt ourselves really veterans.

Much to our physical relief and also much to our disappointment we found that we should not "to horse" the second week, since all our time was to be devoted to artillery firing practice. Eight rounds of shell and twelve of shrapnel was accorded, by peace-time regulations, to our captains and lieutenants. They performed creditably, much to their amazement and to that of Brigadier General James B. Gowen, the Post com-

mander, who climbed up the observation tower one day to make sure that we were not demolishing entirely the rather hostile group of little fishing boats, which seemed reluctant to give up their sport simply because of a few shells bursting around them in the small coves of the Gunpowder River. Major Hauser's practical and suggestive method of coaching us during this vital part of our training was certainly most helpful, and one to be followed by all military instructors, we united in thinking. The last two afternoons of the week were spent on the pistol range, where Second Lieutenant Albert H. Nosun fairly obliterated that splotch of black, known as a bull's eye. On Wednesday afternoon we took to the Aberdeen Proving Ground, where a fourteen-inch gun refused to fire, while we stood around, poised expectantly and modestly waited until we were inside the huge museum, inspecting tanks, tractors, etc., before it spoke its mind. It might be inserted here that, the previous Wednesday we motored to Edgewood Arsenal, where, among other things, we entered one of the buildings devoted to the manufacture of tear gas, and emerged a sad, spluttering group.

To General Gowen, who commands Fort Hoyle; to Colonel McNair, and to all the officers of the post we here publicly express our appreciation for their extreme hospitality to us and declare that few of us have spent two more enjoyable as well as instructive weeks at any time, anywhere, and that we all hope to be able to return next year with large reinforcements.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Old Army. By GENERAL JAMES PARKER. 454 pp. Illustrated. Dorrance and Co., Philadelphia, Pa. \$4.00.

In recent years the appearance of a considerable number of memoirs of military leaders of this country and England have been noted. Most of them are interesting, a few are of historical value, and all reflect the personalities of their authors. These three characteristics apply to General Parker's Memoirs of "The Old Army".

Joining the Fourth Cavalry at Fort Sill, Indian Territory, in 1876, after his graduation from West Point, General Parker gives a vivid picture of Army life in frontier posts in the southwest during the late Seventies, when hunting parties and the pursuit of outlaws or deserters occupied the time and energy of the garrison between Indian Campaigns. He took a prominent part in the Geronimo Campaign in the southwest in the early Eighties. The extent of the depredations committed by the blood-thirsty Apaches and the difficulties and hardship encountered, while running them down, are well depicted. A number of little-known episodes of the campaign are described. General Parker's answer to the much-discussed question "To whom belongs the credit for the Surrender of Geronimo" is one of these.

After tours of duty at Fort Myer and San Francisco, General Parker, then Captain, was assigned to duty at West Point as Instructor in Cavalry Tactics. Many still recall with much pleasure the characteristic sayings of "Captain Jim".

After a tour in Cuba following the Spanish American War, the author was ordered to the Philippines in 1899. There his service during the Philippine Insurrection was varied and extensive. The personal experiences of General Parker in many campaigns and battles give the reader an excellent idea of the task of the Army in our first experience with "The White Man's Burden". For exceptional bravery at the battle of Vigan, General Parker was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Following the Philippine Insurrection, General Parker served for a time in the Adjutant General's Department, and also commanded the 11th Cavalry which, under him, was well and favorably known for its efficiency and regimental esprit.

He was later appointed a Brigadier General, and during the World War, was promoted to Major General, National Army.

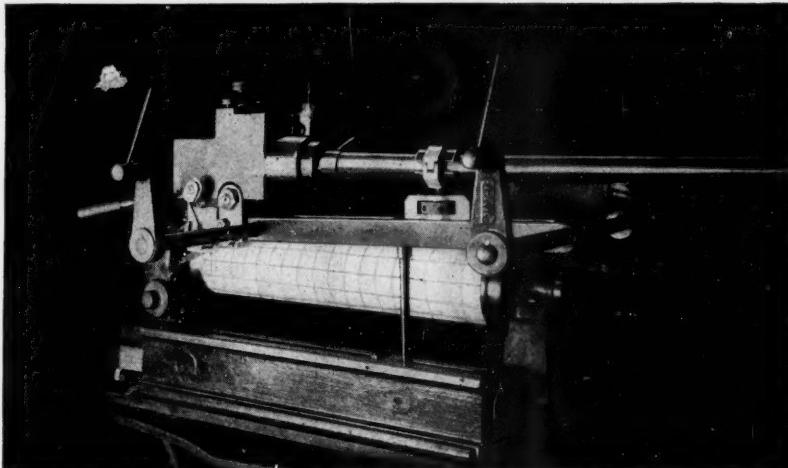
General Parker evidently believes in calling a spade a spade, and his frankness in discussing what he considers as derelictions on the part of his superiors leaves nothing to be desired. A wealth of anecdote and an easy flowing style add much to the book.

The author's long and distinguished service as a Cavalry officer makes the work of especial interest to readers of THE CAVALRY JOURNAL.

The West Point Guide Book. 29th Annual Edition. 56 pp. Illustrated. Wm. H. Tripp & Co., West Point, N. Y. \$1.00.

The publishers of this guide book have prepared a complete description of West Point. Not only its grounds and buildings, but its customs, history, traditions and life are covered. Ten pages of well executed color plates and 145 half-tones give a comprehensive idea of the setting and activities of the institution. Authentic information is offered in the chapters on History of West Point, Military Training, Academic Work, Chapels, Buildings, etc., Social Activities, Physical Training, Sports and Appointments.

NO. 3 OF A SERIES OF TALKS ON AMMUNITION QUALITY

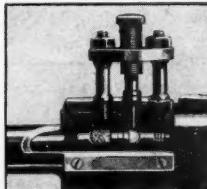


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Sectional View of Pressure Gauge Showing Location of Piston and Piston Hole

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Falsehood in War Time. By ARTHUR PONSONBY, M.P. 192 pp. E. D. Dutton and Co., New York. \$2.00.

Reviewed by Major R. C. Cotton, Infantry

A broad stripe of red across the blue cover of this book brings back from the past those lurid lies the propagandists used in making everyone see nothing but the red side of war. Even though "when war is declared, Truth is the first casualty," falsehood and deception have long been, and will ever be, well recognized and accepted weapons in war. Deception is not the tool of the politician and diplomat back of the lines alone. The masterful commander is an adept in tactical deception. The author recognizes these facts in introducing his very unusual and accurate collection of specific war lies. The energy and research of the author and the arrangement of matter have produced a good narrative in very readable form. Not everyone will agree with John Bright's remark that "wars are supported by a class of argument which, after the war is over, the people find were arguments they should never have listened to," for when war comes the whole people, weak and timid souls included, must make war. Experience has shown that the war lie is the most effective means of enthusing the whole populace and is, therefore, no more unmoral than war itself. To make war without deception is to arm the enemy with the truth and this is impossible of acceptance. Consequently, without broad reservations, the thoughtful military reader will deny the main thesis of the author in his conclusion, "that international war is a monster born of hypocrisy, fed on falsehood, fattened on humbug, kept alive by superstition, directed to the death and torture of millions, succeeding in no high purpose, degrading to humanity, endangering civilization and bringing forth in its travail a hideous brood of strife, conflict and war, more war."

Effective and prevalent though falsehood in war may be, it is not the weapon of the protagonist of war alone. The idealists of peace are masters of falsity in diverting and understating the truth in war and peace.

The Organization and Administration of the Union Army, 1861-1865. By FRED. A. SHANNON, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History, Kansas State Agricultural College. In two volumes, 671 pp. A. H. Clark Co., Cleveland, Ohio. \$15.00.

Reviewed by Captain L. A. Pulling, Cavalry

Unlike most military books this work of Dr. Shannon's does not deal with strategy or tactics, but it covers the subject of Army organization very thoroughly and exhaustively. General Upton in his classic work "Military Policy of the United States", describes our army organization during the period prior to the Civil War, but stops there. It has remained for the author of this excellent work to give us an insight into conditions affecting the organization of our armies in one of the greatest wars in our history.

The subjects treated in the various chapters, and in the order named are: State Rights Applied to Army. Feeding and Clothing. Munitions. Discipline. Daily Life

of the Soldier. The Collapse of State Recruiting. Concession of the Bourgeoisie. The Mercenary Factor. Operation of the Enrollment Act. The Slacker Problem.

It is interesting to note that when war was declared the War Department had the means to equip only 75,000 men, and one is impressed with the utter helplessness of the Department to meet the sudden demands of war expansion. In this connection the reader is given a most excellent description of what the Civil War soldier had to eat and wear, and how he was often shamelessly cheated by dishonest contractors and supply officers.

Speaking of munitions the author says, "While most of the errors of the North can be traced to a lack of nationalism, expressed in the form of state rights fetishism, the mistakes having to do with the arming of the Federal troops were due to sheer stupidity expressed in the failure of the War Department and chief military men to recognize the importance of certain revolutionary inventions in war making machinery." For instance, the ordnance experts refused to adopt a breech-loading rifle during the early years of the War because they maintained that a soldier would fire too fast with a breech loader, and therefore shoot inaccurately and waste ammunition.

Concerning the policy of the North with regard to discipline the author says, "She poured out her wealth and wasted her resources in extravagant and roundabout ways of increasing the size of the army, while neglecting the proper armament and training of the soldiers." The almost total absence of discipline with all its ruinous effects showed the serious need of trained officers, but, strangely enough, as the author points out, this need did not seem to be fully appreciated. Some of the anecdotes which are told in this connection are highly amusing.

The description of the daily life of the soldier is replete with interesting and often very amusing details. The chapter devoted to this subject is almost worth the price of the book, at least to anyone who has had any military service.

Recruiting, and the supply of replacements to the armies in the field, is treated in interesting detail, and the author points out the fact that there was a sharp controversy between General McClellan and Secretary of War Stanton on this important subject. The question at issue was decided in favor of Stanton, and with most unhappy results for the Union Army. The enrollment under the draft, the slacker problem, and the draft riots are described at length, and the serious draft riots in New York City at the time Lee's army advancing into Pennsylvania are vividly portrayed.

It is doubtful whether there is another book in existence that covers the author's subject so completely, and with so fair and unbiased a viewpoint; and it is very readable and interesting throughout. It should prove most valuable as an historical study, and is worthy of a place in any officer's military library.

American Polo. By NEWELL BENT. 407 pp. Illustrated. The Macmillan Co., New York. \$6.00.

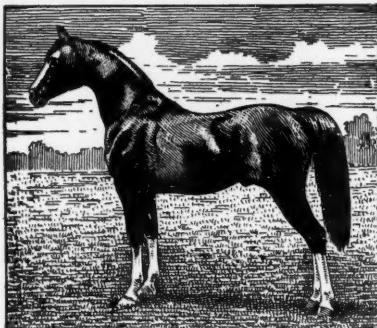
Reviewed by Winifred Cullum

One could have no idea, merely from reading Mr. Bent's modest statement in the Preface, that he wanted but to paint the picture and tell the story of the game today in North and South America,—of the wealth of background and rich fund of personal reminiscence he has put together so skillfully and entertainingly.

There is a romantic streak, however hidden at times, in every true horse lover. Perhaps that is why this book reads like the most entertaining fiction; the kind that enhances one's experience of life. If you love polo you will finish this book regretfully, but also with a great pride that you belong to the select brotherhood of those who also played (and by virtue of that very fact to the ranks of qualified critics).

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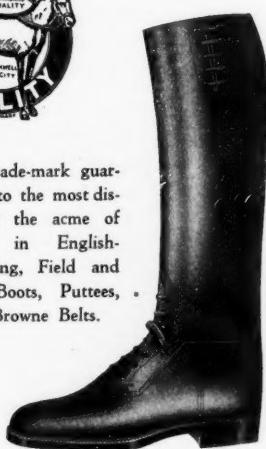


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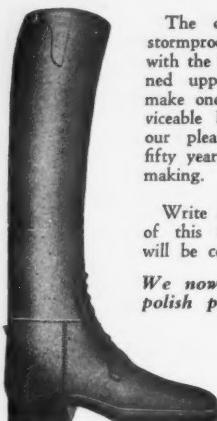
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The first object of a picture is to please. It may do any one of a number of other things unconsciously; teach a fundamental truth of human nature, satisfy one's love of the beautiful, or one's innate sense of proportion. But all else fades into the background beside that sense of pleasure that it must give. When I read these simple words of his conclusion, "The picture is painted and my work is done", I wondered if it did not give the author a thrill to write them because he had done it so well.

Some of the most fascinating material in the book is contained in the Introduction. (This by way of warning you not to skip it!) A history of the game from earliest days in Persia up to the time Europeans began it, first in Calcutta, then Aldershot in 1869, with much information on ancient ways and customs in Persia, Japan, India and China.

The health and thereby the longevity of a nation can very often be measured by its love of outdoor sports. The picture presented of the unexpected growth of popularity of the game in America is a hopeful augury for the future of the country. Because in polo you have, added to the normal excitement of a game, the thrill of well ridden horses whose speed is continually pitted against each other, the public has recently come by the thousands to appreciate the game. Wherever polo is played constantly great crowds soon come to watch and enjoy it. For them there is no book I know of that will make easier reading to give them an added understanding and pleasure. The background of the development of a sport and its great figures are necessary prerequisites to an appreciation of the game as it is today.

Red Cavalry. By I. Babel. 213 pp. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, N. Y. \$2.50.

For those who enjoy pictures of fires, disasters, wounded after battle, realistic descriptions of humanity at its worst, *Red Cavalry* will have a great interest. To others it will seem a book that perhaps ought never to have been printed. Yet there is a startling beauty now and then—flashes of description that show you by a stroke of genius the witchery of a moonlight night. He can write amazingly at times. It is from the subject matter itself one turns with a shudder of horror that human beings can become so brutalized by war.

The book gives pictures of what the Red Cavalry did and saw in Poland, true enough, but a picture so confused, told in such disjointed, impressionistic style that it leaves the reader baffled by the overwhelming sordidness of what seems, when seen through this author's eyes, an irredeemable catastrophe.

Even in a revolution we look for a rough sort of justice to be dealt out once in a while; at least an effort, however crude, to make things better in a world that has become so unendurable as to bring about a revolution. But in this book no light shows anywhere, perhaps because it is too soon after the chaos of upheaval. Or has the author kept his eyes too resolutely on the ground to catch any faint glimmering on the horizon of a better scheme of things to be worked out eventually?

The old saying "Where there is no vision the people perish" makes one wonder what is to become of Russia if its writers cannot lift the eyes of the people to the picture of a better Russia; such as Tolstoi suggested, by contrast, in *Resurrection*. You can read through the two volumes of that with absorbed attention, feeling that the terrible injustices in it will eventually be righted when one man can see and write of them as pitifully as Tolstoi did.

Red Cavalry is undoubtedly authentic. It may be a great book. I don't know, because too often it is utterly repellent, and it is the most depressing book that has yet been written on Russia—and there have been many. Its effect may be salutary in that only to read it is to turn one's mind from revolution to seek some other saner solution to the world's problems.

The Legend of the Hounds. By George Henry Boker. 32 pp. Illustrated by Gorden Ross. Wm. Edwin Rudge, New York. \$5.00.

George Henry Boker gained fame as a poet and renown as a huntsman in the latter half of the nineteenth century. In the Lebanon Valley of Pennsylvania he heard the local legend of the debauched owner of a smelter who rewarded his faithful pack of hounds by casting them into the fiery maw of his blast furnace. Flora, the leader of the pack, led the ghostly company back from the furnace to hunt the drink crazed master to his death. The narrative poem built on the old legend ranks high in literary merit, and shows the real fox hunter's love of the hounds. Edward Sculley Bradley, Professor of English in the University of Pennsylvania, in a biography of Boker, says: "Nor has any other modern poet, except Masefield, given us a more convincing and sympathetic picture of an animal than Boker's *Flora*. The same delicate understanding of the animal's nature which immortalizes *Right Royal* and *Reynard* is found in this much earlier picture."

The present limited edition, with an introduction by Owen Culbertson, and illustrated by original engravings by Gordon Ross, is printed on hand made paper. It is a beautiful contribution to hunting literature, both in content and as an example of artistic book composition.

It Might Have Been Lost. By THOMAS CLEMENT LONERGAN, formerly Lieutenant Colonel, General Staff, A. E. F. 327 pp. C. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1929. \$3.50.

Reviewed by Major Robert C. Cotton, Infantry

The author, as a staff officer in the A. E. F. during the formation and fighting of the American First Army and later as the representative of the Historical Section in London, had opportunities to study at first hand the complex and delicate problems involved in the formation and continued existence of the First Army. The author has admirably presented this great accomplishment of General Pershing in a pleasing and fluid style with proper historical mention and reproduction of official documents. He has shown the desire of the British to incorporate American battalions in the needy ranks of the British Expeditionary Force, the keen endeavors of the British General, Wagstaff, to further this desire and the reliance the British placed in the difference in language to wean us away from the French. He shows also that the French made similar, if less keen, endeavors to use American units as replacements. Finally the author crowns General Pershing's fixity of purpose with achievement and consummation—the reduction of the St. Mihiel salient—by the newly-born American Army.

The public can not now procure from the Government Printing Office the War Department account of this critical period in American history—"The Genesis of the American First Army." It is a stirring tale to tell with pride that a virile American commander in a distant theatre of operations held unwaveringly to a correct purpose, maintained an American independence of spirit, organization and accomplishment in the face of the greatest difficulties and thus brought about an early Allied victory. The American people today and the generations yet unborn—if they are to run true to form—are entitled to know the facts. It is well that this book has appeared for the sake of truth, else "It Might Have Been Lost."

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Announced for Fall

Among the new books announced for publication this fall, the following are of special interest to military readers. Prices are given when announced in advance.

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JULY, 1914. By Emil Ludwig. G. P. Putnams Sons. \$3.50.
THE TRUTH ABOUT GERONIMO. By Britton Davis, Yale Univ. Press. \$4.00.
OUR SECRET WAR. True American Spy Stories, 1917-19. By Thomas M. Johnson. Bobbs Merrill. \$2.50.

"IT'S A GREAT WAR." By Mary Lee. Houghton Mifflin Co. Joint winner with "God Have Mercy On Us" by Wm. T. Scanlon of the \$25,000 Novel Prize offered by the publisher and the American Legion Monthly for the best World War novel. \$3.00.

BIOGRAPHICAL

MARSHAL FOCH. By Major General Sir George Grey Ashton, K. C. B. The Macmillan Company.

GOETHALS: Builder of the Panama Canal. By Joseph Bucklin Bishop and Farnham Bishop. Harper & Bros.

MARSE ROBERT: KNIGHT OF THE CONFEDERACY. By James C. Young. Rae D. Henkle Co.

SHERMAN: SOLDIER, REALIST, AMERICAN. By Captain B. G. Liddell-Hart. Dodd, Mead & Co.

WOODFILL OF THE REGULARS. By Lowell Thomas. Doubleday Doran & Co. \$2.75.

THE GENERALSHIP OF GENERAL GRANT. By Colonel J. F. C. Fuller. Dodd, Mead & Co.

POETRY AND FICTION

THIS MAN'S ARMY: A WAR IN FIFTY-ODD SONNETS. By John Allan Wyeth. Longman's Green & Co.

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PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED STATES
CAVALRY ASSOCIATION

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